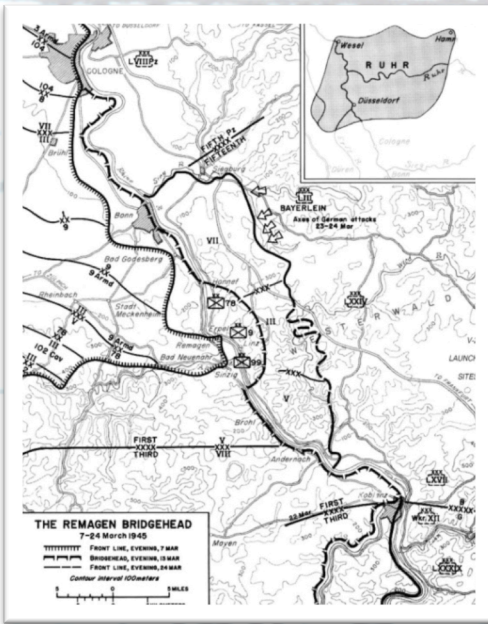


# Remagen Bridgehead Battlefield Tours



Dr. Denison with US Veteran Paul Schumacher at  
Remagen Anniversary Ceremony



"The day's fighting was as gruelling and hard-fought as any in the First Division's campaigns in Europe." (First Division official History, Danger Forward, p. 367, on battle of Ukerath)

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See and hear the difference between Germany in March 1945 and Germany today with Dr. Andrew Denison, Director of Transatlantic Networks and a well-known American political analyst and commentator in German media.

Hear the stories of the bridgehead breakout, of the soldiers, American and German, and the local civilians who suffered through those difficult days.

Dr. Denison has lived in Pleiserhohn since 1995. Since moving to Pleiserhohn, Denison has been researching, guiding, and lecturing on the days of fighting and the coming of peace to the villages and towns of the Remagen Bridgehead. (Charlie Company, 16<sup>th</sup> IR, First Infantry Division, captured Pleiserhohn on 21 March 1945)

## • Track the battle

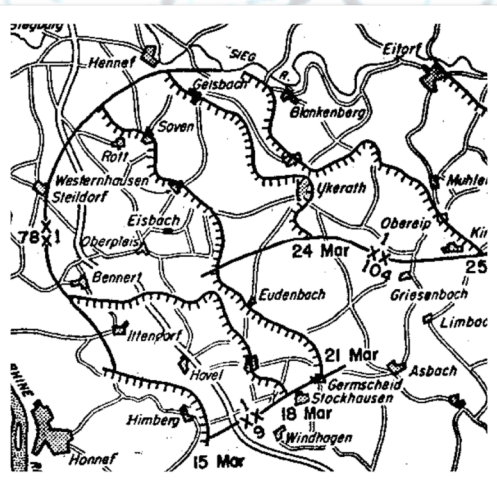
Follow the route of US forces, including the "Big Red One," as they repelled incessant German counter attacks, pushing forward for two gruelling weeks before breaking out of the Remagen Bridgehead.

## • See the foxholes

Visit the trenches and the pockmarked buildings that bear testament to the ferocious fighting of March of 1945.

## • Hear the history

Listen to the story of the battles and the remarkable peace that followed as told by Dr. Andrew Denison, renowned foreign affairs commentator and director of Transatlantic Networks, in Königswinter, Germany.



First Infantry Division,  
Frontlines 15-25 March



## The Remagen Bridgehead Yesterday and Today

In the Romantic Rhineland, where the Romans once tended vineyards, where castles dot the hilltops, the defeat of Nazi Germany was suddenly and surprisingly hastened when on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945, American soldiers captured the intact Remagen Bridge across the Rhine and breached Hitler's last defensive line.

In the fighting that took place in the 17 days between the capture of the bridge and the bridgehead breakout that led to the Ruhr Pocket, American forces saw combat as intense as any since the landing on Omaha. What was once a battlefield is today a bucolic landscape, hills and dales, forests and small farms, half-timbered houses and medieval village churches, bearing testament to the peace and progress Germany has enjoyed over the past 70 years.

In German forests, dark and still, bomb craters, foxholes, and trenchlines remind one of the battle that once raged. In the villages, older buildings still show the scars of war, pockmarks and improvised repairs visible to the trained eye.

## Important Bridgehead Sites

- See the bridge-tower ruins where once the gigantic *Ludendorf Bridge* spanned the Rhine River.
- Cross the Rhine on a small ferry and inspect the eastern *bridge towers and tunnel*.
- Visit the remnants of a *V-1 launch facility* and the entrance to an *underground weapons factory*.
- Take lunch at the *Petersbergs Hotel* overlooking Rhine Valley where General *Eisenhower* visited March 27.
- Tour a *German War Cemetary* that marks the place in Ittenbach where over 2500 American war dead were also temporarily buried.
- View a *pockmarked bridge*, part of the *Reichs-Autobahn* that was source of such heavy fighting around the town of *Agedienberg* on March 13.
- Visit a *forest bunker* still bearing testament to the heavy tank fire it received on March 21, 1945.
- See the terrain where the decisive breakout *Battle of Uckerath* took place.
- Tour American positions, including *foxholes and artillery berms*, as well as *German zig-zag trenches* on the other side the valley.
- Dine in the Medieval walled town of *Blankenberg*. "Not a shot was fired in this town and it was more of a sight-seeing trip instead of a tactical operation. There was an old castle perched on the top of the cliffs and almost all of the company went through it." (After Action Report, Company C, 16 IR)

