

Operation Frankton: The Cockleshell Heroes



Operation Frankton was an Allied raid on shipping in the German occupied French port of Bordeaux in the Bay of Biscay during the Second World War. The raid was carried out by a small unit of Royal Marines known as the Royal Marines Boom Patrol Detachment (RMBPD), part of Combined Operations. The British Prime Minister Winston Churchill believed the mission shortened World War II by six months and Admiral Louis Mountbatten, the commander of Combined Operations, deemed the raid "the most courageous and imaginative of all the raids ever carried out by the men of Combined Operations".

Day One:

Guests are met by MHT at Bordeaux Airport at 11:00 before setting off by mini bus to Pointe de la Negade, near the launch site where we have our mission briefing. We continue to Pointe de Grave to discuss the 'tide race', we see the lighthouse, Fort de Verdon and Plage de la Chambrette. We debate how Sheard and Moffatt had to be abandoned (Conger), the loss of Mackinnon and Conway (Cuttlefish) and the capture of Wallace and Ewart (Coalfish). Our final destination is Port de St Vivien, the first day's

hide, before we make our way to our first night's hotel in Bordeaux.

Day Two:

We start the day with a visit to Château Magnol, the German Naval HQ for Bordeaux. We then take in the 4th day's hide before visiting the Bordeaux U-boat Pens. Then on to Quai Carnot, the scene of the limpet attack by Hasler and Sparks. We then cover the Bassens South, the limpet attack by Laver and Mills. We then move on to the Place de Tournay, to consider the execution of Wallace and Ewart. Finally we cover the escape of Hasler and Sparks and head from Blaye to Ruffec before heading to our hotel.

Day Three:

On the last day of our memorable journey we cover in detail the escape of Hasler and Sparks. We travel from Ruffec and visit the Roumazieres Lambert Station. We discuss the escape and subsequent arrest of Laver and Mills and so too that of MacKinnon and Conway. Finally we head back to Bordeaux airport for our return journey home arriving c1530.

What's included:

*Hotel Bed & Breakfast
Accommodation*

*All transport from
the official overseas
start point*

*Accompanied for the
trip duration*

All Museum entrances

*All Expert Talks and
Guidance*

Low Group Numbers

*Low Single Room
Supplements*

*"I just wanted to thank
you for the trip, it was a
great experience & both
Nicky and I enjoyed
it very much. Your
depth of knowledge on
the subject certainly
brought the past alive."*

Military History Tours

is all about the 'experience'. Naturally we take care of all local accommodation, transport and entrances but what sets us aside is our on the ground knowledge and contacts, established over many, many years that enable you to really get under the surface of your chosen subject matter.

By guiding guests around these historic locations we feel we are contributing greatly towards 'keeping the spirit alive' of some of the most memorable events in human history.

Let their sacrifice not be in vain.