

## D Day Planning 70th Anniversary Tour



Guests meet Colonel Oldfield at Inkpen in Berkshire where Terence Otway trained his battalion for the Merville Battery action. Here we discuss the planning process, choice of invasion location, staff structure, deception and security breach fears.

We then move to the north end of Salisbury Plain Training Area to see the other aspect of airborne delivery. Here we learn about glider training, in particular for the seizure of Pegasus and Horsa bridges.

Moving down the Avon valley we briefly stop at the planning cell for HQ 6th AB Div at Brigmerston before heading for the New Forest. We will pass by Ashley Walk where just about all air delivered munitions in WW2 were tested, before going on to Stoney Cross airfield to hear about the expansion of airfields and their uses in the invasion.

Then to the coast at Lepe where there are the remains of hards for loading landing craft, a construction site for Mulberry caissons and the point where PLUTO left the mainland for the Isle of Wight before being laid under the Channel to Cherbourg.

We make our way to Marchwood where we observe a great view back over the Solent to the Western Docks of Southampton, the busiest of the invasion ports. Here we discuss the assembly of the invasion force.

Then on to Hayling Island, where the COPPs trained and where 50th Div (Gold Beach) carried out its practice landings. Here we will also consider the role of the “funnies”, those fantastic devices used by the Allies to such great effect on D Day.

Our final stop is Portsdown overlooking Portsmouth harbour to the south and Southwick to the north. Here we will look at the command of Operation NEPTUNE under Admiral Ramsay and the fateful meetings at Southwick House leading up to the decision to ‘Go’. We discuss the naval organisation, the routing of convoys and how the whole force was choreographed from embarkation ports to landing beaches. We learn about the last few days before sailing and ultimately those last few minutes as the force approached the Normandy coast for what was to become the greatest invasion the world has ever seen.

For anyone interested in the Second World War in general, or D Day in particular, this one day MHT Battlefield Briefing is an absolute necessity in order to begin to understand what happened 70 years ago this June.

The tour is led by MHT’s Colonel Oldfield and we are delighted that the D Day Planning process is explained not just from a military historian’s viewpoint but also by one who has a trained military eye and has served.

**Tour Prices:**  
*£75 per guest*

**Next Trip Dates:**  
*Saturday 24th May 2014*  
*09:00 to 17:00*

**What’s included:**  
*Professional guidance by*  
*Colonel Paul Oldfield*



**Transport & Entries:**  
*Guests follow in own transport.*

