



“The Czech Fury”

1945-2015 70th Anniversary Tour

January 2015 BULLETIN

Dear All,

December is always the month of the worst malaise in any trip planning, so let's start the New Year keeping focused on the approaching Czech Trip with an update with the latest information.

Planning in the Czech Republic is ongoing, and going well, with a summary is as follows :

1) The Route is now finalised with lots of support (and potentially financial support) coming in from towns en-route. The current route is now Volary (Start) – Kvilda – Vimperk – Kašperské – Hory – Sušice – Horažďovice – Nepomuk – Plzeň (Finish)

This follows the 4th Armored route and then morphs into 16th Armored to Plzeň in the correct direction following the 1945 advance. The locals are very enthusiastic about having us return to the places were visited in 2010, and it's a fantastic, largely unchanged route with battling opportunities around every corner.

In Pilsen we are staying on a park used by the 16th Armored in WW2 and take the lead role in the parade there - after the returning vets of course - in the biggest liberation commemoration in any city in Europe

2) Vehicles, reflecting the enthusiasm for the Czech adventure, and the quality of past Czech events, the committed vehicle list is already far more extensive than ANY PREVIOUS 2nd Armored trip, This event will be scenario based drawing on previous experience gained and on our FURY Film experience but as of December 2014 the U.S. Vehicle list is as follows :

2 x M4 Sherman tank (plus others joining for Pilsen)

2 x M24 Chaffee

4 x M5 Stuart

7 x M8 Armored car

7 x Half Tracks (and we're still after 3 more)

24 x jeeps

6 x Harleys

5 X GMCs including Field Kitchen

Other vehicles are in the pipeline but cannot commit until leave applications become valid in January etc.

There are EXTENSIVE German elements available to fight us - we are not going to say what as it will ruin the element of "we don't know how many Krauts there are", but they include softskins such as Bikes and Kubels through to Trucks and armoured vehicles.



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3) Blank-Firing Gun Hire and use is now going through the rubber-stamping final stages and the **Personal Weapons Forms** have been sent out early this month. If you haven't got one, email powerhousehq@live.co.uk.

4) Travel. We'll hopefully have this finalised by the end of the month, as there are still multiple options depending on number of personnel, personal preferences, and number of transport vehicles for WWII vehicles.

For example:

- People will probably need to travel with the low-loaders/curtainsiders. This will be free obviously, in return for travelling with the vehicles to watch over them.
- There is a coach from the U.K. at a cost of £60 which will take 19 hours each way to the start point and returning from the finish point in Pilsen.
- There is the option to fly from Stansted to Munich with Easy Jet for roughly £80. This takes 2 hours each way. The Americans are flying into Munich and transport will be arranged by coach to and from Munich to the event. This leads to the issue of taking kit and if you choose to fly there will be a centralised "kit dump" where your duffle bags will be loaded into the vehicles which will be transported in convoy with a ground party accompanying them direct to and from home to Czech and back.
- We can hire a coach to transport people to/from Czech. The cost of this depends on numbers of course.
- People can go in their own vehicles and share the costs between those in the vehicle.

Obviously the cheapest way will appeal to some, but there are also people who will like the quickest route. There is a thread on the Forum where we'd like to hear your opinions so we can concentrate on the best overall option (which may well be a mix of the above options, of course).

5) Payments. Remember, the payment schedule is as follows:

Initial Deposit (non-refundable in all circumstances) to be paid ASAP	1375 CZK / 50 Euros
Payment #2 to be paid by end of December 2014	2750 CZK / 100 Euros
Payment #3 to be paid by end of January 2015	2750 CZK / 100 Euros
Payment #4 to be paid by end of February 2015	2750 CZK / 100 Euros
Payment #5 to be paid by end of March 2015	2750 CZK / 100 Euros

Please keep to this schedule with the remainder of the payments (although you can also pay in full at any point). **You should have paid the Initial Deposit and Payment #2 by now.** NOTE that paying in CZK is currently the CHEAPEST option by far – the exchange rates are working in your favour here right now, with strong Dollars and Sterling.

Currently the trip cost of 12375 CZK works out to an excellent £340 / \$515!!!!



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It should also be mentioned that fuel has fallen in price, which if it stays low will make the actual fuel spend during the trip lower too.

If you have any problems with the payments (or haven't received the info email on making payments (sent to you after you send your **Entry Form** in), please let your Country Co-ordinator know straight away – there's always something that can be done, you've just got to let us know.

Please remember that the **12375 CZK / 450 Euros** does not cover your personal transport arrangements to Czech.

5) Recruitment. This has gone quite well so far, with around 120+ committed but has slowed up of late as some people have to wait until the New Year to get leave applications in. Our aim is for 185 men.

This is the last chance for a 70th anniversary and the chance to do the greatest and most authentic event ever undertaken by 2nd Armored.

We need everyone to be involved in this and to keep talking about the event and to recruit quality guys to get involved - once you've gone 2nd Armored, you never go back as we all know!

REMEMBER – IF POTENTIAL RECRUITS CANNOT ATTEND FOR ALL OF THIS EVENT, THEY MAY STILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. Due to the nature of the travel to and from Czech, for people who have arranged this in advance and can make their way to meet the column wherever it is on that day, PART PARTICIPATION IS POSSIBLE.

That's all for now!

Any questions, contact the following people:

- Your Country Co-ordinator for Entry Forms, Vehicle Forms, Personal Weapons Forms, payments, etc,
- Gavin Copeman for transportation of WWII vehicles from the UK,
- Martin Dusek for transportation of WWII vehicles from mainland Europe,
- Jon Heyworth for ideas, suggestions and general enthusiasm!!

You can always use the email powerhousehq@live.co.uk to get in contact over anything, and the “Czech 2015” page on Facebook is open for questions to the Czech organising team.

Country Co-ordinators

USA & Canada : Tom Bowers tsmgm1a1@aol.com

France & BENELUX : Laurent Olivier oli_wla_1942@yahoo.fr

UK & Ireland : Glen Mallen powerhousehq@live.co.uk

DE, AT, CH : Robert Zeithamer zeithamer@gmx.de

CZ, RU, N, PL + rest of Europe : Mirek Seifert mirek.seifert@4tharmored.cz

Vehicles : Martin Dusek martin.dusek@4tharmored.cz