



Operation Benjamin Mission
Six Historic Headstone Replacements
Led by Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, President
& Shalom Lamm, CEO
October 12-14, 2021

Monday, October 11

Depart from the USA to Brussels, Belgium.

Tuesday, October 12

10:00 When your flight arrives at Brussels International Airport take a taxi or shuttle to the Crowne Plaza Brussels Airport Hotel. We will meet our coach at the hotel entrance at 13:00 for the hour and twenty five minute drive to the Ardennes American Military Cemetery.

12:00 We will join dignitaries, US and Israeli government officials, and Descendants of Honor, in a historic event replacing the headstones of two American Jewish officers killed in action WWII, who have mistakenly been buried under Latin Crosses for more than 75 years. We will meet with the family of 2LT Kenneth Robinson, a heavy bomber crew member KIA in August 1943, and 1LT Joseph Sugarman, pilot of a B-17, who was killed on his fifth mission on March 11, 1945.

Following the ceremony there will be a small reception to meet with relatives of each honored soldier. We will hear from Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, Shalom Lamm and officials from the American Battle Monuments Commission.

14:00 We will then travel to the Luxembourg American Military Cemetery for a second extraordinary event. We will join dignitaries, US and Israeli government officials, and descendants of honor, in a historic event replacing the headstones of an American Jewish soldier killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge in WWII, who has mistakenly been buried under Latin Crosses for more than 75 years. We will meet with the family of Technician 5th Grade US Army, Everett M. Seixas, Jr. and learn about this Columbia Law School graduate and his illustrious lineage.

17:30 We will then travel to our hotel in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Rabbi Schacter will describe some of the behind-the-scenes work of Operation Benjamin.

19:30 Dinner followed by a discussion reflecting on our day's activities and a review of the action-packed day ahead.

- Wednesday, October 13**
- 8:00** Following morning services (optional) and breakfast, we will travel by coach to the Lorraine American Military Cemetery at St. Avold in France for another moving ceremony at the American Military Cemetery.
- 10:30** We will take part in a special event replacing the headstones from a Latin Cross to Jewish Star for 2LT Howard Feldman and Major Jerome Maxwell Papurt. Major Papurt was a dynamic combat leader and senior agent of the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA. 2LT Feldman was the navigator for a B-17 heavy bomber that was destroyed over Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Tragically, his aircraft was one of the last heavy bombers shot down in the European theater.
- 11:30** Here, too, following the ceremony there will be a small reception where we will meet with relatives of the soldiers and hear from Rabbi Schacter, Shalom Lamm and officials from the American Battle Monuments Commission.
- 12:30** We depart for the Epinal American Cemetery where we will participate in the headstone replacement of Private Marvin Ashkenas. Marvin Ashkenas was an only child and orphaned at a young age. Despite many attempts by his relatives who adopted him, they were unable to gain custody after Marvin was killed in action in the battle around Le Tholy, in October 1944. We will complete the task they tried to so hard to accomplish 77 years later, by replacing the Latin Cross for a Star of David over his grave. Following the ceremony, we will spend time with the Marvin Ashkenas family members.
- 16:00** We depart for our hotel near Frankfurt International Airport in anticipation of travel back to the US.
- 19:30** Dinner and discussion of the past day's activities, and a reflection of what lies ahead for Operation Benjamin.
- Thursday, October 14**
- 9:00** Depart from Frankfurt, Germany for the USA.