



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## WWII Veterans to Return to Libya

Until recently, Libya, a country for so long closed to tourism, was rarely visited by those who fought there during the North Africa Campaign of WWII. Greater openness from Libya's leadership now means that travel is possible throughout the country and this has offered the opportunity for commemorative visits to these forgotten battlefields. A group of WWII Veterans will make this trip in October of this year supported by the Heroes Return 2 Programme and organised by British Veterans Travel.

The epic North African Campaign of WWII was a continuous back and forth struggle between the Allies and the Axis forces. Throughout the series of battles and stalemates both sides consistently showed fortitude, ingenuity and determination. This Commemorative tour will enable British Veterans of the campaign to return to the battlefields where they saw active service, visit memorials and remember lost comrades with a simple ceremony of remembrance.

The tour will take place from 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October this year and will visit all the key strategic points of the campaign within Libya, starting at Fort Capuzzo on the Egypt border and heading westwards to Tobruk, Sidi Rezegh, Gazala and on to Benghazi. The party will have the chance to step foot once again onto these famous battlefields under the guidance of a WWII historian and to visit the many cemeteries still carefully tended by the War Graves Commission.

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## **...2/Veterans Return to Libya (cont)**

This short trip is recognised by the Heroes Return 2 Programme, which awards grants from the Big Lottery Fund to WWII Veterans from across the UK to return to places around the world where they saw action. Eligible individuals are able to apply for grants to cover travel and accommodation costs for themselves and also a spouse or carer. Since the scheme was launched in April 2009, close to £7 million has now been awarded to veterans of the Second World War.

British Veterans Travel is the new travel branch of British Veterans Recognition Card, established in 2003, which is the sole provider of photo-identity cards to ex-servicemen and women. Simon Lamb, Director of British Veterans, said: "We have a large number of WWII veterans within our membership and we felt that the organisation of a commemorative tour would be complementary to the other services that we offer. Since much of the coastal area of Libya was pivotal during the Second World War and given that the country has only recently been opened to tourism, it seemed like a wonderful opportunity for our first tour."

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Issued by British Veterans Travel. For further information please call Frances Morris on 01376 513215 or email [info@britishveterans.co.uk](mailto:info@britishveterans.co.uk)

### Notes to Editors:

- To find out more about British Veterans Travel and the Libya trip in particular, please call 01376 513215 or visit [www.britishveteranstravel.co.uk](http://www.britishveteranstravel.co.uk)
- For more information about the Heroes Return 2 Programme, visit [www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_heroes\\_return](http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroes_return)