

John O'Connor  
and  
Marv Kruse

18 Oct 1999 – 1 Nov 1999

18 OCT - 01 NOV. 1999

JOHN O'BONNOR & MARY KRUSE

WW-II BATTLE SITES  
AMERICAN CEMETERIES  
MONUMENTS  
MUSEUMS

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN  
FRANCE  
BELGIUM  
LUXEMBOURG  
NETHERLANDS  
GERMANY



18 OCT 99 8:30 PM Chicago, en route to Amsterdam with  
Marrin Kruse. We'll pick up a rental car and the two of  
us will tour Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, ??? for  
two weeks.

We'll return to Chicago Nov 1st. Between now and then  
we'll visit battlefields, cemeteries, museums, liberated villages,  
historically significant beaches, laundramats, war-time  
Friends of Murr's and other places of interest along the  
way.

We're flying Kuwait Airways to Amsterdam. The flight  
continues from there to Kuwait City. Most of the  
passengers are Kuwaiti.

The cabin crew is male & female. Men appear to be  
Kuwaiti, women don't. Plane is an Airbus A340 widebody.

Flight is scheduled to be 8:15, arriving in Amsterdam  
at 11:45am Tuesday. There is a 7-hr time change from  
Chicago.



Marv lives in Melrose Park, Ill. He closely follows the Sunday Tribune travel pages, looking for discount tickets. Our round-trip tickets were \$315 each. The ticket stock says \$296.730 each. Marv is a life-long bargain shopper!

We'll be in Amsterdam in 90 minutes or so. Although I had four seats to stretch across, I didn't sleep well. I kept waking up gasping for breath. My guess is the cabin oxygen content wasn't quite right.

19 OCT 91 8:30 AM

We got into Amsterdam a little early, picked up our rental car, and ~~the~~ headed for Bruges. The car is a 4-door Opel, 1600 cc 16 valve engine, 5-speed manual transmission. No Cruise control and no tilt steering wheel, but a nice well-handling car.

We got sandwiches in a deli in Antwerp, then proceeded to Bruges, taking wrong roads and wrong turns the last hour. But, we were ahead of schedule anyway, so it was not a downer.

We had a nice dinner at a place on the square (called "Market" in this town, not square) - then checked about seven or eight hotels before settling on the eighth one. Basin and shower are in the room. Toilet is one flight down. Five-star it is not!

20 OCT 99 9:00 pm Calais

This morning we took a carriage ride through Brugge. The driver gave us all the historical hi-lites. Those that I remember are:

Middle Ages

940

1440-1480

1100

1200

Mathematician from Denmark... Something STEVIN... ~~invented~~ invented the decimal in 1700 something while living in Brugge. Statue was erected in his likeness.



From Brugge we drove to Oostende, Belgium where we saw the Atlantic Wall on the North Sea, where Hitler expected the invasion to come from and fortified accordingly.

Then to Dunquerque, France. Mow gave me a very spirited account of the German army driving the English, French and Belgian troops to the sea. Once there, his generals wanted to continue, but Hitler said "no." He didn't want as many as 100,000 prisoners.

He figured Churchill would eventually sue for peace and agree to withdraw from the war. Churchill sent every available boat & ship to save the troops. This was in May/June of 1940. The evacuation took 2 days in June.

Then to Calais, arriving about 5:00pm. We checked into a Formula 1 economy hotel (Mow's favorite), then some dinner at an IBIS hotel in Calais, then some sightseeing.

So far, I've only been lost with my driving 2 hours and forty minutes, and I have yet to take my first picture.



Today is Wednesday. We're due in Sourdaval, France  
sometime Friday, where Marc's friends include the  
current Chamber of Commerce president. He'll be our host  
for two nights. He's promised to invite some others  
to join us. Marc just told me that a jazz fan will  
be among the invitees.

This trip doesn't end until a week from Monday  
and we are way ahead of schedule. Those of you who  
know me well know that I'm almost in heaven due to  
not being in a hurry to get somewhere by a certain  
time or date.

Sunday we'll leave Sourdaval and, in a leisurely



21 N


the  
St

Not



from the landing and surrounding area are buried there.  
Approximately 1,000 died on the first day of the invasion.



21  99 We left Calais some time after 8:00 am and drove to Boulogne (where I took my first photo), then thru Abbeville, Rouen and Caen, then to Omaha Beach at St-Laurent where D-Day Invasion in WW-II occurred.

There is an American Cemetery and Memorial there called Normandy American Cemetery. 9,387 American war dead from the landing and surrounding area are buried there.

Approximately 1,000 died on the first day of the invasion.

It is quite a beautiful and moving place. This is the 4th time Marr has been there, my 1st.

~~Back to Caen for the night. Tomorrow to Southampton.~~

Family members could request remains be sent home, and Marr believes about half did. On one of his trips he met a war widow who did have her husband's remains sent home. She said to Marr: "I wish I would have let him stay here because of the upkeep and honor they are given here, compared to the family plot back home."

Marr pointed out that most of the war dead were single, and most were young (average age around 21).



22 OCT 99 8:20AM

We are at Le Mémorial de Caen, which opens at 9am. The car is gassed up and the two of us ate too much continental breakfast at our ETAP economy hotel and we're still too early!

This Sr Citizen business of going to bed at 9:00 pm and rising at 4:00 am has got to stop. I'm in favor of going to bed at 9:00 pm all right, but not for sleeping!

---

The Peace Memorial was wonderful - and also sickening. It opened around 1985. It is layed out in the manner of the Guggenheim museum in New York - you start at the top and spiral down.

For more details, take a trip to France and visit it. You will find the trip worthwhile.

---

Unfortunately, I neglected to get brochures or take photos here.  
Damn!





**DAVITO**  
DISCOUNT FURNITURE STORES  
901 E. MacDade Blvd.  
Folsom, PA 19033  
(610) 532-3210  
\*\*\*\*\*  
DATED MATERIAL - DELIVERED  
30 N. Black Horse Pike  
Bellmawr, NJ 08031  
(856) 933-1133

We  
met up  
Auber  
Our

Mulot  
age 7 and Charlotte age 5.



Alt - 110 - 10 - 1

We  
met up with  
Auber

Our

Mulot

age 7 and Charlotte age 5.



At the house a resistance fighter



We  
met up w  
Auber

Our  
Mabelot  
age 7 and Charlotte age 5.



Alt. ... + the house ...

We arrived in Sourdval a few minutes past noon,  
met up with our hosts, and had a delightful lunch at  
Auberge du Moulin de la Seé à Brouirs

Our hosts are Christian and ~~Chantal~~ Chantal  
Mulot and their two delightful daughters, Gwenäille  
age 7 and Charlotte age 5.

---

After settling into the house, a resistance fighter,  
YVES CHERUAV came by. Ide and Marv went out to  
battle fields for a few hours. I was invited,  
but I declined and took a nap. Shortly after they left  
I realized I'd made a mistake. I'll never have another  
chance like that one!

---

Dinner was fantastic - Eight people eating and  
talking for three hours. Too many wine bottles for  
me to count.

P446



2508 NORTH BAY DRIVE • POMPAHO BEACH, FLORIDA 33062 • (305) 942-0400

EXECUTIVE CLUB

Hillside Shores

23

June

Man  
too



for the region/area that Soundview is in. This job is

23 OCT 99

Sourdeval, France

Breakfast isn't as all-out as the other meals: coffee, juice, rolls, fruit, etc.

Christien had to be at a ribbon-cutting at 11:30. Marv & I went with him, arriving one or two minutes too late. Christien is a PR worker of some kind for the region/area that Sourdeval is in. His job is to get things done, with his goals given to him by elected officials.

The ribbon-cutting was at a trade fair, similar to the computer show I used to work. Marv just told me it's called an EXPO. It was in a tent building, constructed in a downtown parking lot, wooden floors, opaque roof, doors that close, etc. A 4-day affair.

There were about a dozen guys in suits making speeches. Marv was wearing a shirt and tie, a dark blazer, and his military ID - 109th Infantry regiment of the 28th Infantry division. The 28th emblem



is a keystone, because it was named after the Pennsylvania militia, which is its forbear.

In WW-I the Germans named the keystone insignia "The Bloody Bucket" because that's what it looked like.

Most of the speakers made remarks about Mann & his division saving Souders on the 13th of August, 1944. Mann's division came from St-Lö, one of the places where the Germans held back the Americans, British and Canadian forces until early August.

---

Back to the house after a few hours at the Epps. Lunch is low-key than dinner. Only about 2 hrs of eating and talking, and maybe 1 or 2 four bottles of wine.

The Epps had free wine, beer and camper, so for a drinker the day started off in a pretty serious

way. I'm not a drinker, but I used to be.

Maw was giggling and saying things like  
"Whee, it looks like they're going to party all day!"

---

After lunch six of us went in two cars to  
the Brittany American Cemetery in St James, France.

Maw looked up the resting places of two guys from his  
Division.

The visit was quite emotional for me. I can only  
guess at how it was for Maw.

---

Back to the house. 90 minutes to rest before  
going to an Oktoberfest party in the Souders athletic  
center.

It was a sellout at 600+. German band, german  
food (pork, sauerbrant, potatoes, bread), beer, wine. At  
a little past midnight I begged out for Maw & I.



The rest stayed on till past 2:00. We were told  
the party went on to past 4:00. Too loud for me.

24 OCT 99 POITIERS, FRANCE

Breakfast at the Molot's was only coffee and.  
Then, in two cars, six of us set off for an American  
Military Monument in the centre of Arranches. From  
there we drove to see the wonderful church (from a distance  
only) of St-Michel.

We then had lunch nearby in  
From there, Christian, Yves & his wife, and  
Christian's father René left to return to Soudersal while Mar  
& I left for southern France.

We got lost right at the start for an hour or so, and  
then got lost again for another 90 minutes looking for our hotel  
in Poitiers.

Along the way we passed through Fougres, Laval, Le Mans,  
and Tours, not stopping in any of them.

Gas costs \$50-\$55 US per 11 gallon tankful in a car  
that gets 30mpg!



Point of importance for motoring in France:

Although you can get free road maps from AAA in America, they do not have the detail you need. When you arrive in France, buy a road map that has as much detail as possible.

There are many new Auto Routes and many towns and villages that are not on the 1997/8 map I got from AAA.

---

### POI #2

Force yourself to learn to read road signs using the system they designed, not the system you use in America.

Major cities along your route have easy-to-read signs at every traffic circle. You enter the circle looking for the name of the major city along your route, and exit the traffic circle following the arrow for that city name.

If you instead attempt to follow St numbers on your road map, good luck!



to 8pm  
m 9am to 7pm  
to 6pm



ue la  
mémoire  
-entrance to  
centre and  
martyr village  
by underground passage

point



walkways

grat communcion • Limoges



Oradour-sur-Glane a été classé un établissement public  
administratif départemental / Conseil général de la Haute-Vienne



25 OCT 99 Montpellier

Before leaving Souldeval I told Christian that we were bound for the French Riviera, and did he recommend any must-see stops along the way. He recommended ORADOUR SUR-GLANE and, since we couldn't exactly locate it on our maps, he went to his computer and spent an enormous amount of time preparing maps for us.

We left Porters at 8am and arrived in Oradour at 9am. We spent the next few hours going through the on-site museum and the left-standing ruins of the village where, in WW-II, the German Army "dishonoured" itself and committed a horror unparalleled in the annals of war.

We were told that people who visit there today can smell the ashes and get "bumps on their skin" from the feel of the place.

Rather than me suffer through writing about what Marc and I saw this morning, I bought a slim volume that takes 5 or 10 minutes to read. You're encouraged to read it yourself.

The museum displays point out that the offers from the French Government to put the people's remains in a monument were refused. The reason most people outside of France haven't heard of it is because local people raised private money to construct the museum and maintain the burned-out village. Local funds usually don't



generate the same public awareness as do government enterprises.

From Oradour we drove to Montpellier, where we are spending the night. Along the way we passed through Limoges without stopping, <sup>had an early dinner</sup> in Toulouse, where we only wasted 30 minutes learning that real restaurants are only open 12-2 and 5-11, and ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> at ~~7:00~~ <sup>3:00</sup>, which is when we wanted to eat.

During the day we were delighted to discover that the hotel site location book that we'd been using to get lost since our arrival, has exit ramps maps on each page! This wonderful discovery means that we now drive directly to our hotel instead of reading instructions on how to do exactly that, in French!

At hotel check-in time we discovered Marvin's main suitcase had been left behind at Christian's. The normally nervous but ~~just~~ jovial Marvin became hyper-nervous but jovial. It was kind of like giving speed to an old guy. It works. But why does it?



I ran thru some worst-case scenarios with Mann,  
and he handled each one with much more anguish than  
I would. My reactions led me to get frustrated with things.  
Mann's led him to get anxious with things (any things).

This was a Sunday night. We phoned Christian, gave  
him the name, address and phone of where we'd be several  
days hence, and I left it in Christian's capable hands.  
Of course... it wasn't my suitcase.

Mann had enough sex underwear, etc. to motor on with  
some mighty rinsing and drying in the motels. I suggested  
purchasing a small quantity to last him for a few  
days, but wringing and washing seemed to be better options.



26 OCT 99 Menton, Fr (on the Italian border)

We were on the road from Montpellier at 7:10 this morning. Our plans were to get to the Rhone American Cemetery at Draguignan, Fr by 10:00 or so, have a short visit, then down to St Tropez for lunch, having learned yesterday that lunch is from ~~to~~ 12-2:00 in real restaurants.

We got to Draguignan right at 10:00, spent an hour finding the ~~the~~ cemetery, had a nice visit, then spent an extra 30 minutes getting out of the town due to inferior instructions from the American administrator of the cemetery.



He's a 50-something from Wisconsin and a nice enough fellow to talk to. He's not much good at giving instructions, but he is good at explaining why the cemetery is hard to find if you're following the signs posted in town. If you ask me, I'll tell you the horror story.

---

From there to St Tropez for lunch, arriving about 1:20. Lunch was fine, but all restaurant food in France is much more expensive than better food in the US. Ask me about that, too.



From St Tropez we drove all along the coast to the Italian border. We visited along the way:

Cannes

Ant: bes

Nice

Monaco / Monte-Carlo

Menton

I'm too tired to write more. Tomorrow I'll try to re-visit Antikes and find the Picasso museum that daughter Lisa and I had such a good time in in 1981.



27 OCT

What  
of the Fr  
e final  
I find  
and who

edge  
here

doesn't)

resulted

Part of being confounded while trying to find the museum resulted





27 OCT 99 BESANCON, FR

What a day! We started out from the extreme eastern edge of the French Riviera, drove thru Monaco, Nice, and into Antibes where we finally found the Picasso Museum.

I finally figured out how the French sign system works (it doesn't) and why. If you ask me, I'll explain it to you.

Part of being confounded while trying to find the museum resulted in our finding a covered open-air market. We bought wonderful stuff there (cheese, olives, pastries, nuts, fruit) and had lunch at a picnic table a few hours later.

It is 793 Km from Menton to Besancon. Along the way we passed thru Aix-en-Provence  
Arignon  
Lyon  
Macon  
Chalon-sur-Saône and just as before, stopped in none of them.

Mid-afternoon we stopped for gas and also to pick up a few items in one of those giant markets that sell groceries, appliances, booze, clothes, etc. I needed: scotch tape, one bar of bath soap, face cloth, and one liter of motor oil. I came out a defeated man... for the first time in my life wishing I was in a K-Mart (which I hate). Ask me about that too. I'm too close to the emotions tonight to write about it.



The French toll roads are very expensive and very, very good.  
The toll is a little less than .5FF/km which works out to about  
US .14/mile vs 3-4 cents in the US.

That sounds expensive, but the alternative is to spend 12 hrs  
shifting gears instead of 7 or so hrs in top gear. Try it, you'll  
like it.

If you're traveling long distances and you don't use the toll  
roads, you add days driving time.

---



28 OCT

We d  
arriving  
in Mul

A f  
the brew  
were fu



stop

left

ms

At 11.15 AM I left Roger Ersham. In 1940 Germans took back the



OCT

We d  
riving  
Mul

A f  
brow  
e fur

We met Man's friend Roger Ersham. In 1940 Germany took back the  
Alsace part of France.



stop

left

turns

21



28 OCT 9

We d  
arriving  
in Mulh  
A f  
he brew  
we fin



stop

left  
ms

+ Maria's friend Roger Ersham. In 1940 Germany took back the



28 OCT 99 Kayserberg, France

We drove 221 KM today, leaving Besancon about 7:10am, arriving Turckheim about 10:15. Along the way we did not stop in Mulhouse or Colmar.

A first for us is we did not get lost today, even though we left the freeway to go to a supermarket (where all sought-after items were finally purchased).

We met Mario's friend Roger Ersham. In 1940 Germany took back the Alsace part of France.

Roger was drafted into the German army. He later deserted, along with a German soldier, and spent the rest of the war hiding out around Colmar (Colmar under German rule), until Colmar was liberated Feb 2, 1945. He was a corporal when he deserted.

The grating Mario gets around here has to be seen to be believed. Roger met us at the Hotel De Ville (city hall in French cities). With him was Bruno Klunzer, a French WW-II veteran. After much smiling, hugging, etc., Bruno left, agreeing to meet us for a drink before lunch.

Roger, Mario & I then went to Roger's house to visit with his wife Ann. As we were making ready to get into Roger's car, a smartly dressed Gendarme marched straight across the square toward us.



You'll recall Marv's missing suitcase from several days back. Last night Marv phoned Roger and asked if his suitcase had arrived. "No" said Roger.

This morning, shortly after greeting Roger with much hugging and kissing, Marv asked again about the suitcase. "No" said Roger.

Roger had told Marv last night that he had talked with Christian and Christian had assured him that the package would be shipped from Souders on Monday afternoon. This was Friday morning. Marv looked worried.

The Gendarme marched smartly up to Roger and advised him, in French of course, that the package he was expecting had arrived. He then marched away, while Roger turned to Marv and said, in English, your suitcase has just arrived, it is at my house, shall we go there now and meet Ana, my wife from Connecticut?

Marv beamed. God smiled.



visit  
Then  
with  
was a  
colate  
he go  
Drum  
a







...salmon went on for an hour or so.



visited  
Then  
with  
as a  
ate  
got  
mo



m  
or

conversation went on for an hour or so. Some of





visit  
Then  
with  
as a  
ate  
go  
me

am  
for

conversation went on for an hour or so. Some of



We visited at Roger & Ann's a short while & retrieved the suitcase.

Then we three men went to a restaurant where we met up with Bruno and Jean Marie Loos. Jean was not a veteran. He was a child at the time and he remembers asking G-I's for chocolate. He said the first chocolate he ever ate in his life he got from a G-I.

Bruno & Jean could not stay for lunch, but the wine and conversation went on for an hour or so. Some of the things I heard were:

- "Our town is your host."
- "... come to live as God in France."
- "I told the girls 'no zig-zig'."

After lunch, Roger, Marc & I started on a tour of cemeteries:

- American monument & wall in Sigolsheim (only one with Muslim headstones)
- French-Moroccan Army cemetery (WW-II)
- German WW-I cemetery (2600 buried there)
- WW-I French memorial at Du Linge, including trenches
- Memorial Museum of "Colmar Pocket" battles 1944/45  
Turckheim, Alsace



Before going on the war tour Roger thought Marc & I should reserve our hotel for the night. Good thing, because all around the region are sold out due to something having to do with wine. Lots of it is produced here. The vineyards are beautiful.

Roger drove us to a bar/restaurant in the countryside where the owner is a friend of his. The owner called around for 30 minutes and located a hotel for us in Kayersburg.

It is a beautiful hotel and room. During the day I came to find out that Roger is a retired German university teacher, speaks five or six languages, and apparently knows the origins of all words. Kayersburg is named after Caesar, and burg means hill. How about that?

There was a very cute toddler with a French family the next table over at lunch. The kid looked sort of, but not quite, Asian, and nothing like the adults (4) and other kids at the table. Roger saw me looking at and enjoying making faces with the kid and told me he was Eskimo. Imagine that! I grow up in America and have to come all the way to France to see my first Eskimo.



9 OCT

We  
in the  
in Tur  
Fin  
for the  
all oth



Lunch at a picnic bench in a highway fuel stop was  
better than we've been experiencing in French restaurants



29 OCT 99 LUXEMBURG 384 km today

We left Turenheim/Colmar around 8:30am, stopping in the village for on-the-road food, as Friday is Market Day in Turenheim. French cheese is to die for!

First stop was St AVOld American Military Cemetery. For the first time we met a rude American on-site manager. All others were extremely courteous and helpful to Marv.

Lunch at a picnic bench in a highway fuel stop was better than we've been experiencing in French restaurants.

On to Luxembourg and Hamm American Military Cemetery in Luxembourg City, where I had my picture taken at General Patton's grave. Ask me to tell you about his grave site.

We then called Marv's friend Tillie Kimmes and invited ourselves over, plus invited her to join us for dinner. This is some wonderful woman. She's Secretary for the Battle of the Bulge Society (CEBA - Study Circle of Ardennes Battle) and all GIs from that Battle are her "boy friends." She's dynamic, vivacious, and she knows how to find us a hotel room and also a good (excellent) restaurant. We had our best meal of the trip.



While at the Hamm cemetery Mow went to the graves  
of two men from his company that he knew personally.  
He took pictures of their gravemarkers. One of the guys  
was a schoolmate of Mow's wife Marge when she was  
a kid in Iowa.

HILLSBORO SHORES EXECUTIVE CLUB  
AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET  
FOR THE PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 1999 - DECEMBER 31, 1999

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR A UNIT OWNER	Assessments	Future major repairs/replacements	Total Funds to be Assessed
			Assessments will range from:
Fully Funded	\$168,768		
Partially Funded	\$14,675		
	\$183,443		
Fully Funded	\$168,768		
Partially Funded	\$31,204		
	\$199,972		



30 OCT 99 LIEGE, Belgium 358 km today.

We had a wonderful USD 114 - hotel room arranged for us by Tillie. After breakfast we checked out and picked up Tillie at 9:00am.

The three of us stopped first at Patton's memorial park in Ettelbruck, LUXEMBOURG. In Tillie's words: "We have to visit Georgie first." While there, she told us a story of Patton's granddaughter, who is a nun. Ask me and I'll repeat it for you.

Next was Diekirch, LUXEMBOURG to see the best military museum in the country. It was very good. The dioramas are almost better than life. The only museum I've enjoyed more on this trip is the Peace Museum in Caen, France.

Next we drove through part of the beautiful Ardennes forest on our way to the Vianden Castle on the OUR river, which is the German border river.

We followed the OUR river passing Demund, Germany, which is where the <sup>7TH ARMY</sup> German infantry crossed into Luxembourg Dec 16, 1944. On to Dasburg, Luxembourg, where the PANZER division crossed (heavy tanks required a better bridge).



Then to MARVACH, LUXEMBOURG. Heavy fighting  
occurred there Dec 16-17, 1944. American troops delayed  
the German advance but did not stop it.

Then into CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG where we lunched at  
the hotel (CLARAVALLIS) where Colonel Fuller escaped  
out a rear 2nd story window with German troops on the  
1st floor. He scaled a sheer cliff face, into the waiting  
arms of German troops at the top. He was taken prisoner  
and released when the war ended.

Then to Steinsef (LUXEMBOURG CITY) via Skyline Drive  
with a short stop in Hosiengen, Luxembourg to view  
yet another monument.

Somewhere along the way Tillie mentioned that there  
are sixty-five monuments throughout LUXEMBOURG,  
so future trips are in order.

We said goodbye to Tillie about 4:30 pm and drove  
to Bastogne Belgium where we visited the American  
monument (MARDOSAN) memorializing the complete  
battle of Bastogne, when McAuliffe (General of the  
101st Airborne division, which was surrounded in the



city by German troops) ... when asked to surrender,  
he sent back the one-word answer: "NUTS."

That memorial is stupendous. As I stood in the center  
of it, reading the inscriptions of what happened in  
that battle, I could hear the gunfire and  
artillery all around me. It was quite moving.

Later I walked around ~~McAullife~~ McAullife  
SQUARE (so named after the war). That man's name  
is everywhere!

Then on to Liege, Belgium, passing through  
<sup>HOUFFALIZE</sup> where the 1st and 3rd armies met,  
cutting off the salient of the advancing German army.

We checked into an ETAP hotel, then went  
exploring for the city center of Liege. We found it.  
I found an Internet Cafe to catch up on my  
e-mail, leaving Mark in a sidewalk cafe where,  
he was in 7th heaven, Ask me to elaborate on that  
too.



31 OCT 99 Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery  
Hombourg, Belgium

We slept late (7:20am) after last night's exciting activities.  
We arrived at the cemetery a little past 9:00. It is very beautiful  
... and very windy and cold!

My Irish father has been gone for some years now, but I am  
pleased to say that The Luck O' The Irish continues! For two  
weeks Marv and I have been enjoying the beautiful Autumn colors.  
Today, the last day of our trip, that has come to an end.

The winds have stripped the trees of their leaves. That could  
have been the case two weeks ago just as easily.

01 NOV 99 Amsterdam 570 km yesterday

After the American Cemetery we crossed into Germany into  
the Hurtgen Forest via Vossnack Vossnack. We spent  
a little time searching for the KALL TRAIL, but found  
it eventually.

Marv saw action here. The Kall Trail was the only  
supply route two regiments trying to take the town of  
Schmidt. They took the town, but lost it again to a  
German counterattack.



~~5/10~~

The  
which  
The  
The  
and wa  
50,000,



Line,  
+ '48



The  
which  
The  
The  
was  
so,



Line,

488

t stop was a Green military cemetery





stop was a German military cemetery nearby.



~~1950~~  
The US forces were trying to break through the Siegfried Line, which was the main German fortification.

~~The objective of getting through Hurtgen Forest~~  
The Hurtgen Forest Campaign began the latter part of Oct '44 and was completed in Feb '45. American casualties were 50,000, German 40,000.

Next stop was a German military cemetery nearby. ~~Buried~~ Buried in it was Field Marshal MODEL who, when surrounded in the RUHR Pocket ~~and of~~ and could see that Germany had lost the war, killed himself with his gun.

He had asked to be buried ~~in~~ with his troops (as had George Patton). The cemetery is at Vossnach. There are about 9,000 German soldiers buried there, including 5,000 unidentified in a large black stone tomb.

Next to the cemetery is a memorial to the Schwein SWIND HUND division (116th PANZER). Man's 28th Division fought them 3 different times. Man said they were good!



We passed fields of "dragon's teeth" in this area. They are concrete pyramids designed to stop tanks and other vehicles. Merv pointed out that they were put in place in 1936 to stop tanks of that era. By 1944 tanks were larger. "We just <sup>threw</sup> through dirt and ~~logs~~ lumber over them and drove right over."

---

We then headed north to Amsterdam via Aachen. Once in Amsterdam we spent more than an hour looking for our hotel (getting to be a habit), settled in, then went out for dinner and a walk about the old center city. We were lost about an hour.

Dinner was wonderful. We ate in an Indian restaurant. Although my expertise in restaurants does not extend to Indian cuisine, I am becoming a little bit knowledgeable. Merv enjoyed his meal too.

For some unexplainable reason the walkabout found us in the Red Light district.



Kayne Anderson Investment Management  
1800 Avenue of the Stars, Second Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067  
Tel 310 556 2721 Fax 310 284 6490

We're now bound for Chicago aboard our  
Kuwait ~~Airbus~~ Airways Airbus A340, confident that  
some of our friends believe we were killed on the Egypt  
Airways Airbus that crashed after taking off from New  
York two days ago.

We were not killed. We were not on that plane. Everything  
you believed happened to us did not happen to us. We were  
not going to Egypt. We were in Europe. The two are  
not the same.



## A Time For Healing

### An incident during the Battle of the Huertgen Forest, November, 1944

The Huertgen Forest, roughly 70 square miles of densely wooded and rugged terrain, begins about five miles south and east of Aachen, Germany and falls into a triangle outlined by Aachen, Duren and Monschau. Beginning close to the German-Belgian border, portions of the battle field were part of the West Wall or Siegfried Line, complete with pill boxes. It consists of high marshland of volcanic origin cut by streams and rivers; deep gorges run generally northeast to southwest. The plateaus are cleared farm land. The dense forest, mostly of fir 75 to 100 feet high, form a canopy making the forest floor dark, damp and forbidding.

In the Huertgen Forest weather, terrain and a determined German defense produced tremendous losses to veteran American divisions from September to December 1944. Interrupted by the "Battle of the Bulge," the objectives of clearing the forest, capturing the Roer River dams and crossing the Roer River were not accomplished until February 1945. Combat in the forest was a repeat of World War I, a bloody battle of attrition. Mines, artillery, tree bursts and cold, wet weather all took a toll. The U.S. 1st, 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 28th, 78th and 83rd Infantry; the 82nd Airborne and the 3rd, 5th and 7th Armored Divisions and the 2nd Ranger Battalion lost more than 25,000 killed, wounded, captured or missing. Another 9,000 fell to trench foot, combat exhaustion or respiratory illness. This represents a 25% loss rate. Major German elements were the 12th, 47th, 272nd and 277th Volksgrenadier; the 85th, 89th, 275th, 344th and 353rd Infantry; the 3rd Parachute and 116th Panzer Divisions.

During the first two weeks of November 1944 control of the Kall River Gorge was contested by German troops consisting of elements of the 275th Infantry Division and the 1056th Infantry Regiment of the 89th Infantry Division, supported by elements of the 116th Panzer Division. The United States forces were the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 112th Infantry, the 3rd Battalion, 110th Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiments supported by elements of the 707th Tank Battalion, 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 1171st Engineer Combat Group.

The print is from the original acrylic painting by Robert M. Nisley and is a composite of at least three temporary humanitarian truces arranged on the Kall Trail by German and American medical personnel during the period of November 7 to 9, 1944, to treat and evacuate the wounded of both sides. The scene shows the Kall Trail on the west side about 250 yards above the Kall River Bridge. The trail was steep, narrow and muddy. Other parts of the trail consist of sharp curves and switchbacks. American and German medics are recovering and treating casualties. It is cold, not quite freezing, with mist and intermittent rain. To the rear center is the Kall Trail Aid Station, a log dugout which served both the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 112th Infantry Regiment. To the right are two M4A1 Sherman tanks of A Company, 707th Tank Battalion which blocked the trail due to thrown tracks and had been finally pushed off the trail on November 4.

The truces allowed the evacuation of at least 200 American casualties. Some of the medical personnel represented in the print have signed the print.

This print is dedicated to the universal spirit of the combat medic and the brave German and American soldiers who fought and fell in the Huertgen Forest.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Artist Robert M. Nisley of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania is a veteran of World War II and served in the area of the Battle of the Huertgen Forest in November 1944. He was a member of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, which was a highly classified unit working in the psychological warfare and disinformation areas.

Like many American soldiers, he returned from World War II and attended Kutztown State College, Kutztown, Pa., on the GI Bill, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education. While there, he had a showing of combat paintings he had done while in Europe.

He continued his education with a Master of Science degree in Fine Arts from Temple University and taught art for 35 years in the Steelton-Highspire School District.

Nisley is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, winner of the Honor Award in the WITF-TV public television auction and an exhibitor in many arts and crafts festivals. He was chosen to create the first arts poster for the Hummelstown Arts Festival. He is well known in Central Pennsylvania for his watercolor rural landscapes. This painting marks his first return to a military subject since serving in Europe in World War II.



MARY KRAUSE WINDS PART OF THIS.



## A Time For Healing by Robert M. Nisley



The acrylic painting "A Time For Healing" by Hummelstown artist Robert M. Nisley was commissioned by the Governor's Committee For World War II Commemoration as their final project after five years of honoring the veterans of World War II at functions throughout the state.

The Committee's decision was to depict a scene from World War II involving a Pennsylvania unit which would show some humanity in the midst of total war.

The resulting choice was what is called by military historians "The Incident On The Kall Trail." It was there in November 1944 during the Battle of the Huertgen Forest in which the Pennsylvania 28th Division was fighting the German 89th Division for the towns of Schmidt-Kommerscheidt that a series of truces were arranged between the Germans and the 28th Division's 112th Infantry Regiment. During the truces, German and American medical personnel aided each other in bringing in the wounded, who were bleeding to death and freezing to death in the worst German winter in 50 years. The collection centered around the 112th Infantry Regiment's 1st and 3rd Battalion's forward aid station, which was in no-man's land.

It is this humanitarian effort that is pictured here.

The painting has been reproduced in full color limited edition prints to be signed by the artist and both German and American veterans who were there. Proceeds from their sale will go toward the construction of the memorial to Pennsylvania veterans at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

Limited Edition of 1120 prints (in recognition of the 112th Infantry Regiment)

Image Size: 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 19"

Cost - \$125.00 unframed, which includes postage and handling

Order From: Veterans Memorial Commission  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5002  
Phone: (717) 861-8901

---

### ORDER FORM

Send \_\_\_\_\_ unframed prints "A Time For Healing" at \$125.00 each to:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Print Number Desired (if available) \_\_\_\_\_



### in the European Theater of Operation

Tuesday, June 6, 1944

# ALLIES LAND IN FRANCE

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force announced this morning that Allied naval forces, supported by Allied air forces, began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France.

The official communique states:-

"Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces, began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

The communique was issued by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and was marked Communique No. 1.

Gen. Eisenhower's order to the troops stated:

*"You are about to embark upon the great crusade towards which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."*

Before the assaulting troops embarked, each man was handed a copy of the Order of the Day from Gen. Eisenhower.

### 'Paratroops Dropped'

German Overseas News Agency said this morning that the "long expected invasion" of Western Europe "appears to have begun."

"Early this morning numerous landing craft and light warships were observed in the area between the mouth of the Seine and the eastern coast of Normandy. At the same time, paratroops were dropped from numerous aircraft on the northern tip of the Normandy peninsula," the report added.

### 'Le Havre Being Shelled'

Later, another German News Agency reported that "D-day has dawned—the invasion has begun," but added that "it remains to be seen whether this

"It is quite possible," the announcement continued, "that the enemy is planning a feint or else a holding attack in order to deceive the German High Command to cause premature German troop movements."

Norman, the key to Paris, lies along the European Channel coastline, opposite Britain's South Coast ports. Its importance—apart from its ports and relative nearness to the British coast—lies in its network of communications which, for the most part, converge on Paris.

The communique was issued by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and was marked Communique No. 1.

Gen. Eisenhower's order to the troops stated: **Mission in a Day**

"You are about to embark upon the great crusade towards which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."

Before the assaulting troops embarked, each man was handed a copy of the Order of the Day from Gen. Eisenhower.

## 'Paratroops' Dropped

German Overseas News Agency said this morning that the "long expected invasion" of Western Europe "appears to have begun."

"Early this morning numerous landing craft and light warships were observed in the area between the mouth of the Seine and the eastern coast of Normandy. At the same time, paratroops were dropped from numerous aircraft on the northern tip of the Normandy peninsula," the report added.

### 'Le Havre Being Shelled'

The announcement also stated that the harbor of Le Havre, being a strategic point, was being bombarded.

Later, another German News Agency reported that "D-day has dawned—the invasion has begun," but added that "it remains to be seen whether this

"It is quite possible," the announcement continued, "that the enemy is planning a feint or else a holding attack in order to deceive the German High Command to cause premature German troop movements."

Normandy, the key to Paris, lies along the European Channel coastline, opposite Britain's South Coast ports. Its importance—as apart from its ports and relative nearness to the British coast—lies in its network of communications which, for the most part, converge on Paris.

Services, exclusively for the **USO** Atlantic F

ing Service... aggressively for the...

Printed by Stars and Stripes Printing Services, exclusively for the  ASDA Atlantic Reg



