

Contents section C

Album 7 to Album 8 France to England

<i>Commence Album # 7</i>	72
<i>Notes for Germany</i>	73
FRANCE 3	73
ROEN.....	74
CAEN.....	75
NORMANDY.....	76
MONET'S GARDEN.....	76
LUZARCHES.....	77
<i>End of Album #7</i>	78
<i>Commence Album # 8</i>	79
PARIS.....	79
CHAMPS ELYSEES.....	79
VERSAILLES.....	80
<i>Notes for France</i>	82
LONDON.....	83
OLIVIER.....	84
<i>End of Album # 8</i>	85

This file I converted from MS Word 6 to MS Word 97 then to OpenOffice.Org 1.1 then PDF from OO.Org. Please forgive me as there are a few small changes that have taken place with all the translations from the different formats.

JCED 3 March 2004.

Commence Album # 7

Karleinz Pfeiffer guided us to his place where Maria was waiting. We enjoyed a welcome drink then Karleinz 'phoned Karl and Clara Gottselig who came over so they could guide us to their home which was to be ours for four nights and a rest for Tiffany. Our room was upstairs. I had a sleep then we had dinner at 7pm. They told us that they were going to Australia in October, great!

Bed at 10.15pm.

Sunday 8th June

Travelled today ~ 0km

We awoke at 6am by church bells but stayed in bed until 8am, a rest. Then breakfast at 9am then Karl took Marie for a walking tour of Neckarsulm which included the Leis old home with witches tower, the old town hall, cemetery, the Catholic church where he preaches, castle and town square.

I stayed home because I was so tired and all I did was to give Tiffany a good wash. We had a lunch of hot turkey, spaghetti and salad. Later Clara drove us to the local mountain then into the town's very modern water park called "Aquatoll".

Today was Karleinz Pfeiffer's 53rd birthday so Clara drove us over to his place for his birthday BBQ. Maria's 84 year old mother was there with many other people to celebrate the day. A young couple talked to us for some time speaking good English which was a help for us as all other talk was naturally in Deutsch.

It rained at 8pm so we all moved into their home. We left at 10.pm for bed at 10.30pm.

Monday 9th June

Travelled today ~ 0km

Temperature ~ 16c

Up at 6.30am and me at 7am because I was still so tired. It was going to take a few days of rest to get back to normal after driving for over 14,300km so far, a long way. Their daughter Petra and son Roland joined us for breakfast.

Their son Roland came with us and Karl to visit the Audi car factory while Clara stayed home. At the entrance there is a small museum which had many old models of various vehicles including a motor bike and a WW2 army vehicle with caterpillar type traction. It was a fast little machine that was very successful in sandy conditions. Then a guided tour

with an audio device but unfortunately only in Deutsch so Roland and Karl quietly translated to us. The Audi factory also assembles or builds Volkswagens and BMW's. We went into the town zentrum at 11am where on Saturday we had put six rolls of 35mm print film in a photo shop to be developed and would be ready the next day. They were ready and looked good. We then went to a bank to purchase the special coin that was minted in 1975 with Friedrick Ebert on it, but they did not have any so Karl said he would try to buy some and bring over to us when they come in October.

Home for lunch then out again as Clara drove us to a little village then back home to get ready for Karleinz and Maria to visit for dinner. Maria looked tired after awhile as we six talked until 10pm. Bed at 11pm.

Tuesday 10th June

Travelled today ~ 0km

We woke at 6am but had more sleep until 8am then after breakfast Clara drove us to a medieval town called "Badwimpfen" which is about 10km away and has the remains of a wall around it. We had lunch at a little restaurant of half a chicken and chips each and a salad between us. I point out that Karl does not drive for some reason so Clara drove us everywhere and is a good relaxed driver. We then went to another town called "Mosbach" about 20km north to a special garden and flower show. It was called "Landes- Gartenschau '97 Mosbach", there is a brochure in the album. It was very interesting although I was still tired so I lay on a grass part while Marie, Clara and Karl walked through the show.

Back for a little sleep then at 6.15pm Clara drove us over to an open air special picnic place next to what Karl called a forest. Later Karleinz arrived without Maria because she was not feeling good at all, probably due to all the excitement in the last couple of days. We all had drinks and BBQ food then we said our goodbyes to Karleinz then back home. Bed at 10pm. We also said auf wiedersehen to Karl as he would have left for work in the morning before we rose.

Wednesday 11th June

Travelled today ~ 283km

Travelled so far ~ 14,660km

Up at 6am, breakfast without Karl but this time with Roland. We took photos then departed at 8.30am and joined the autobahn E50 for about 40km then southward onto a bigger autobahn E35/52 to Karlsruhe. The traffic and in particular the number of

semi-trailer trucks is huge but as is usual the drivers drive with respect for other motorists not like some Australian hoons.

We missed the turn to France because we did not see a big sign to France or Strasbourg and by the time we travelled southward about 10km we thought we must have passed it so we exited near Offenburg to Kehl then over the border into France again, this being our third time into this pretty country.

Notes for Germany

Most times the bedding only had a doonah and we found that it was too hot to sleep under. So we undid the pressclips at the end and slept inside it, like one does in a sleeping bag.

We thought it was good that people did not say anything that suggested they were still holding grudges against people of other countries who were their enemy, that it's part of history and time marches on. The red poppies that we saw so much of are called "Flanders poppies".

France 3

A\$1	~FF4.00
Population	~58,870,000
Petrol price	~ A\$2. p/l



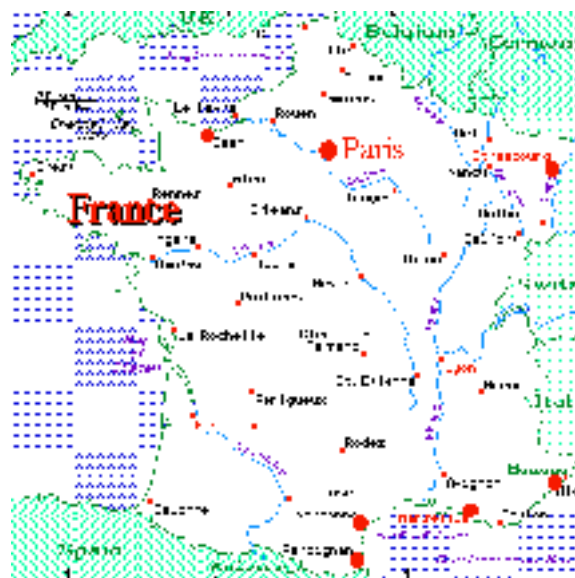
As before there were no border checks on us. We stopped at an information centre but it was not much help to us. We drove onto Dordogne a short distance on N420 highway in a southwestern direction firstly to get some Francs. One bank was closed this day so I asked at a little supermarket where there was an open bank so we could return to the shop and purchase provisions. The woman gladly told me 50mts up the street was an open bank but it would close at 1300hrs (1pm).

So I went to the bank while Marie bought some cherries and raspberries at a private home for a large carton at Ff15 (A\$4) each, cheap. From the bank I rushed back to the shop but it just closed. The woman did not tell us they would also close at 1pm. Drats! That's Europe.

We drove a few metres and had our picnic lunch

After lunch we arrived at Devant Fouday and checked into the Julien Hotel for Ff340 (A\$85) with a parking space for Tiffany but without le petite déjeuner (breakfast). This part of France is more like Germany because of the land change centuries past. The view from our window was fantastic, a little babbling brook with snow water actually rushing past and not babbling. I took a photo of two men fishing with trailines, quite interesting. On the other side of the creek is a railway line so we saw some small diesel passenger trains of only three or four carriages trundling past every hour or so.

We had to drive back about 5km to a supermarket which was closed earlier when we passed it and bought what we needed. It was still possible to buy



UHT milk. Yes, this supermarket was not open all the time during the day as I have explained before, not like in Australia where shops are usually open all day. In our room we cooked dinner as the hotel's restaurant meals were expensive. We had some of the fresh raspberries with cream, yummy.

The bedding was back to normal Australian standards, that is normal sheets not the silly doonahs. We heard church bells again which is one thing we miss here in Australia. On French CTV we watched a cultural old type musical dance show similar to the ones we saw in Austria and Germany. Great. I also watched tennis with Michael Chang verses Scott Draper.

Bed at 9pm.

Thursday 12th June

Travelled today ~ 223km

Temperature ~ 20c

We continued driving on N420 then at St. Dié onto the bigger highway N59 northwards towards Nancy. We saw more wild white daisies and briar roses planted in street centres. Of course lots of poppies, wheat fields, and large forests. At Nancy we drove on highway A31 then drove through small towns and villages that were deserted because it was after 12 noon.

At one town I got out of the car to ask directions from policeman who was on duty at a pedestrian crossing. He saluted me with his right hand which looked so regal because he was wearing white gloves.

More petrol for Tiffany costing A\$25 at A\$1.4p/l. At 2.30pm we arrived in Saint Dizier so we checked into the Hotel Picardy for A\$50 with free parking at the rear of the hotel. At the rear of the hotel I took a photo of an old air-raid shelter which was the first one we had seen anywhere.

We made our cuppas then walked around the town where I had my second haircut of Our Journey costing A\$17 which was done by another woman, as was the one I had in Greece. Back home for a short time then back to the town at 7pm for dinner at an Italian restaurant where Marie had a mixed grille for Ff19 and I carbonare and both half a carafe of white wine. Back home we had dessert in our room of custard slices that bought earlier in the day at a big shopping centre called "Mammoth". Outside our window was a nectarine tree with half developed fruit growing on it. We were still thinking about our families that we were missing so very much. Bed at 9.30pm.

Friday 13th June

Travelled today ~ 185km
Travelled so far ~ 15,360km
Temperature ~ 17c

We departed at 8.45am with the weather a little overcast; we have been so lucky with fine weather so far on Our Journey.

On highway N4 then EE14/N44 to Reims we passed potato, wheat and turnip fields. This part of France is fairly flat so it's the food growing area but also was the area of a lot of wartime activity in both WW1 and WW2. In the war cemeteries there were headstones for Muslims with a half star and crescent. The Jewish ones had a Star Of David on them.

We saw a mechanical man waving a red flag, not at a bull but at us, at roadworks were being carried out. More petrol for Tiffany FF100 at A\$1.44p/l. On this flat area there was a lot of fighting in both wars

so we stopped at a couple of war cemeteries at Cormicy and Corbeny. The peoples homes are rather dull and grey so it must be a poor area.

We were still on the N44 highway and arrived in Laon at 2pm. We checked into the Hotel Marmotte at 3.45pm, costing us A\$41. Tiffany took us up the hill so we could walk this medieval city which is perched on a hill, where else? The main street is about 1km long which multiplied by two was another good days walk. Back home then a short walk to a shopping centre for dinner which was not served until 7.30pm in a restaurant. It was a serve yourself one, a little like Coles in Australia. Marie had ham steaks, chips and salad, while I enjoyed my ham, eggs and salad. Then back home where this hotel is next to a couple of other accommodations, a bit like our Australian motels with carparking inside the grounds.

Yes, France definitely was the best country so far to find accommodation and not expensive either.

Bed at 9pm.

Saturday 14th June

Travelled today ~ 240km
Travelled so far ~ 15,100km
Temperature ~ 16c

Overcast with light rain. We rang Maria and spoke to Grace and Christian which was great. We departed at 9.45am travelling on a big highway N2 southwest passing more war graves near Soissons and another near Catenoy with most graves for WW1 people. At Soissons we joined the bigger N31 highway through many cities and towns like Compiègne and Beauvais which suffered so much in the two wars. We stopped at a shopping centre at Venette and had lunch at a Macdonald's. We drove off the highway to do this but it was so easy to get back onto it later, not like in Spain or Italy where it was so very difficult.

We passed many wheat fields again, wild flowers and lots of digitalis approaching Roen.

As with most French roundabouts the centres were beautifully covered with many flowers as was the case also in Germany. The homes are very drab and dull looking but interesting nevertheless.

Roen

We arrived in Roen at 4pm which is a big city straddling the river Seine, the same one that everyone knows about that flows through Paris.

We parked Tiffany in a very small spot, Marie stayed while I checked out a hotel which was OK but I would have had to park Tiffany in an off street parking station but to find it would have been a nightmare so we drove another 50mts and stopped outside the Le Viking Hotel. This cost us A\$87 including a locked park under the building for Tiffany. Either hotel is only 50mts from the main square and the usual cathedrals.

We had our dinner in our room then at 6.30pm we walked over the road to the river bank to see the Seine for the first time but not the city lights as sunset was getting late by now but we did see some of the various traffic lights. This hotel room was actually more than one room, it was more like an apartment as we had a bedroom with two chairs, a divan, a CTV, and a 'phone. The bathroom had a bath which was an exception rather than the rule as most accommodation bathrooms only consisted of a shower.

Bed at 9.30pm.

Sunday 15th June

Travelled today ~ 148km

Temperature ~ 14c

We were woken up by a big dog outside the hotel and a noisy man next door at 6am then rose at 7.45am. It was a foggy morning. After our breakfast we walked around the city all morning. We saw four grand churches or cathedrals, one being a new church called "L'église Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc" which the reader should understand is to do with the French woman, Joan Of Arc. The old one was bombed in WW2 so this new one was constructed which is in Place du Vieux Marché (Vieux Market Place).

See photo and postcard in the album. It is the most unusual and modern church that we have ever seen. Joan Of Arc was threatened with torture in The Joan of Arc Tower which we did not see. Many of the buildings are similar to the Tudor or English in construction. Some still have holes and damage which was the result of WW2. Some caused by English and/or American bombing. We met an English couple who were also tourists. The man gave me the opportunity to sit on their big motorcycle. In the photo to the left of my back you can see some wartime damage done to the building. The bridge over la Seine is very much like Brisbane's Queen Street bridge. So we almost felt at home.

We had lunch of African food that we bought at an African food stall which was one of many different stalls in a square. The people operating the stalls and a singing group on a stage were all black,

one woman I asked where she was from and she replied "Martinique" which is a French colony in the West Indies. The funny thing was that the group was singing American gospel songs. Back home at noon to checkout to drive to Caen. More problems to get onto the big A13 highway that cost us thirty minutes or so. Later we paid a highway toll of FF23 (A\$5.75). It's so hard to explain just how difficult it is sometimes to leave a city or town. As I have said elsewhere, it's not that the language and signs make it difficult but many other little factors that we Australians are not used to or expect.

Caen

We arrived in Caen at 2.30pm and visited the Memorial Peace which was celebrating the fifty years of the invasion by the Allies. We purchased most of the flags of the countries that we had or would visit on Our Journey.

Caen is in the heart of WW2 fighting. It is about 20km south of Baie de la Seine which is part of The English Channel. Portsmouth is about 50km north on the other side of the channel, so very close. The people here had so much hardship to endure it's no wonder that the French appear to be so difficult sometimes in world affair matters. Here and everywhere, that includes Germany, there did not seem to be any ill feeling from any persons of any country to other people. It was a good feeling for us.

We paid two tolls on the highways today costing us about A\$10 but it was worth it. We drove westward out of Caen and checked into the Villages Hotel Caen which was one of a group of about five other accommodations. France was the only country that this was so. The prices are quite cheap and was usually for three people, the same price for one, two or three. This place cost us A\$35 and we booked for two nights. The hotel was fairly new with code a number to allow entry to the room and carpark. Yes Tiffany had a safe place for two nights.

The young man spoke very little English but I spoke Spanish to the woman in the office. It had been many weeks since I could do that so I enjoyed it very much. The man drew a little map of where the nearest good restaurant called "Buffalo Grill" was for us to have dinner. We drove around for an hour and could not find it so we went back home to get better instructions. The man had gone home and so the woman I spoke Spanish to drew a better map. But we still had problems as from the main road we could see the restaurant but not how to get to it. Strange!

Anyway after a few minutes and wandering around the back of it we arrived. Great!

As the name suggests the restaurant was decorated in a wild west American theme, the waiters even wore appropriate clothes. Marie had spare ribs, salad and chips. I had chilli con carne. We also had a free drink each because I had mentioned the hotel we were staying at. Home at 8pm so we watched a little TV and bed at 10pm.

Normandy

Monday 16th June

Travelled today ~ 123km

Temperature ~ 16c

Up at 8.30am to depart at 9am to visit the beaches where the Normandy invasion took place on Monday the 5th of June 1944, D Day. The whole operation was called "Overlord" and this name is everywhere, on road signs and so on. We had read and seen many films about D Day but after seeing the area and museums we did not know much after all. The main landing beach is about 1km wide, some of the portable docks and barrages are still visible. Huge. The whole beach area where troops of various countries landed on different parts is about 120km long so it was certainly no small operation. Please read the various booklets in the album.

The main areas are Arromanches, Utah and Omaha Beaches. A very sad and moving experience just being there. The poor people suffered so much.

We had lunch at a fast food cafe, Marie had sausage and chips and I had a crepe and an omelette. We visited the US War Cemetery on Omaha Beach and as you would guess the place, gardens and lawns were immaculate. We then drove on a little road to Bayeux where we saw a 70mt long tapestry depicting the Battle Of Hastings in a museum. Then onto the E46 highway to Caen where we took a wrong turn. That's easy to do. Caen is about the size of Melbourne and it was peak traffic time and the sun had set but we managed to find our way back after following the "D-Day Memorial" signs. We made our own dinner and watched CTV. Bed at 9.30pm.

Tuesday 17th June

Travelled today ~ 188km

Travelled so far ~ 15,800km

Up at 7.15am raining and cooler to depart at 8.45am travelling on the N158 highway southward. There's more war memorials, fields of wheat, flowering poppies and lavender in street plant areas. Further on were fields of tobacco, corn and canola. At lunchtime we stopped in a car parking area of a petrol station and had our picnic lunch. Alencon

which is about 180km southwest of Paris. We were getting closer. I meant to mention before that at restaurants all waiters and waitresses say "bon appetite" when your meal is served to you, a very nice touch. All shop assistants/owners say "bonjour" on your entry and "Au revoir" when you leave. After lunch it rained the heaviest so far on Our Journey but dwindled to showers later. At Falaise we cashed DM1000 at a bank that didn't look like a bank. I described this type of bank earlier in Our Journey. It looked like an ordinary office with no security.

We arrived at Le Mans at 2.30pm which is the city where the Le Mans car race is held each year. We drove through the centre of this medieval city with much of its wall intact. On the other side of the city we booked into the Hotel L' Abbaye for A\$66 and a spot for Tiffany at the rear. We had dinner in our room of ratatouille nicoise and nice crusty bread. Two lots of petrol for Tiffany today of A\$12.50 each time, not that we were using a lot but to allow us to use the toilets.

How lucky we were because the big race was held last weekend so there would not have been any accommodation here then.

Wednesday 18th June

Travelled today ~ 284km

Temperature ~ 13c

Travelled so far ~ 16,000km

We departed at 8.45am in thick smog driving on the E50 for about 25km then onto a smaller highway N23/D928 heading northeast towards Paris. As in some of the other big cities our plan was to stay about 20km outside of Paris and travel by train into the centre.

Tiffany was thirsty again so FF50 (A\$12.50) worth of petrol at FF.60 p/L. You work it out this time. There were more wheat fields, the usual red poppies and at the entry to towns beautiful rose gardens. Also in the centres of streets. Of course we saw many people walking around with 80cm long loaves of bread, some with about five sticks of it and usually not wrapped. We stopped near a little town called "Dreux" for our picnic lunch, by this time the smog had lifted a little. Then westward on N12 then northward on N154 to Evreux then eastwards on N13.

Monet's Garden

We crossed over (or was it under?) the big A13 highway successfully then on the D181 arriving in Giverny where the famous painter, Monet built his

garden. This garden is magnificent, a real cottage type garden with a little creek running through it. There had been a small flood two days ago in the Rouen and Paris region and we could see the damage it caused but not enough to spoil it. Please read the booklet in the album. We had a snack in the restaurant where many American tourists were also enjoying some refreshments.

Onward to arrive in Gisors and we checked into the Hotel de Paris, where else? It was a very basic hotel without any stars but a parking area for Tiffany across the street in an open area. This hotel cost us A\$29. so you see it was cheap. I repeat that cheap accommodation is available in France. Many of these towns have an expensive hotel called "Hotel de Ville" which are usually near the town square.

We walked around the town which has nice little canals, a bit like in the Netherlands. We had dinner in a restaurant where Marie had veal chops and I had veal in sauce, also a beer each because it was a bit hot, about 21c. We bought a bottle of Sangria and a bottle of blackberry wine. Both of which we could mix with lemonade.

Then home at 9pm. Tomorrow Paris!

Thursday 19th June

Travelled today ~ 117km
Travelled so far ~ 16,320km
Temperature ~ 14c
Paris here we come!

We thought today's travel was going to be a bit complicated and it was. We drove on small roads with plenty of places to make a wrong turn which we did, but not like the disasters in Italy or Spain.

Luzarches

We crossed the big A16 toll highway without much trouble then at Chantilly we went south on N16 and arrived in Luzarches and found another group of hotels so we checked into the Hotel Premiere Classe. We knew that either Chantilly or Luzarches would be fine because both have a railway gare. We booked in for nine nights for A\$332 (FF1395) at about A\$37 per night.

The man at the hotel told us to get the train into Paris from Gare (station) Chantilly so we drove back there about 8km to check that out. I went to the information office and the woman told me we could park Tiffany at the gare at a cost. I then asked at the police station and they said we could park for free in

a parking area near the big racecourse, bearing in mind that a horse racing carnival was going to be held this weekend. We got nervous about this so we drove back to Luzarches to check out the gare there which to our surprise is only about 500mts from home, walking distance, great. So that settled it, we would visit Paris from here. There was also a small supermarket about 80mts away, very convenient because we were going to be here for nine nights.

This was going to be our last home in Europe and we felt the end was near even though there was four weeks remaining.

We had dinner in our room of yoghurt, apples, raisin bread and wine. Bed at 9pm.

Friday 20th June

Travelled today ~ 0km

We were excited as usual but perhaps more so today as we were going to Paris. We drove to the Luzarches railway gare and parked Tiffany in the gare carpark. We bought our return tickets to Paris that cost A\$7 each and caught the next train to Paris at 9.20am. Luzarches is the terminal gare for this line, whereas the Chantilly gare is on another line. Like the road system, there are a lot of different railway lines. The trains departed about every hour from Luzarches.

The journey took about fifty minutes as the distance is about 25km.

There are four main gares on the outskirts of Paris, west, east, south and the one we went to on the northern side is Nord. From any of the four gares you can catch trains to all other places and of course on the Metro (underground) system. At Nord the first thing we did was to ask at the information office about the special tickets that allow travel on all systems. The young man had an American accent and was very enthusiastic and helpful.

He told us where to buy the tickets at another window which is what we did. We bought two three day tickets, which were three consecutive days, unfortunately we have lost details of the cost but may have been about FF200 each. More great fun and a little frustration was ahead of us using the Metro. From Gare de Nord we caught a Metro train to St-Michel Notre-Dame then another train to the Champ de Mars Tour Eiffel gare to visit the Tower. As we walked up from the Metro onto the street we still couldn't see the tower but as we walked another 20mts, there it was in all its glory. We had our picnic lunch before going to the tower and talked a little to a New Zealand couple. Then a few metres to it but as usual there were long queues for each of the

four lifts up the tower so we bought a few souvenirs. We then walked over the P de Bir-Hakeim Bridge then back again where we saw many boats on the Seine.

We caught more Metro trains back to Gare du Nord where we put four rolls of film in at a photo shop for processing to collect tomorrow. We caught a train for Luzarches but it took the turn on the line to Chantilly. We got off at the next gare and asked three people on which platform would we get the train to Luzarches. We got three different answers but when a train did come along a young lad whom we asked before, pointed to this train so we got on it. At least it was going in the right direction. We finally arrived in Luzarches at 5pm.

For dinner we had to wait until 7pm before the local restaurants served it. We chose a little homely one called "Cottage Trianon" where Marie had canaro (duck) and I kidney with some wine.

This cost us FF157 (A\$40) which is expensive. Back home at 8pm.

End of Album #7

Commence Album # 8

Saturday 21st June

Travelled today ~ 0km

Today was Maria and David's wedding anniversary, their 11th. The security system at this hotel is similar to the F1 hotels but the box that you have to enter the special code into is outside the room so that you don't have to enter the main office area. The room had a double bed and a single above it, a CTV and shower toilet. Nice and cosy for us for our last few nights in Europe.

Paris

Population ~ 8,600,00

We let Tiffany take us to the gare so that we caught the train for Paris at 8.45am. On the way to Paris there are many wheat fields and the same as in Australia we saw backyards of people's homes, many that are single story with flower and vegetable gardens. All the homes are built of brick or cement and not very colourful. We also saw a train wash station, a big car wash type machine. I must mention here that at the gares there were police walking around with automatic rifles at the ready. Also the luggage lockers were not available and if any suitcase or luggage is left unattended for more than a few minutes it is blown up. All this because of the terrible bombs that have exploded in such places.

We caught another Metro train from Gare du Nord to Gare Chatelet then from there to Gare Charles de Gaulle-Etoile which is the station near the L'Arc de Triomphe. When Marie saw L'Arc she decided not to walk to the top but I did. There were no signs to inform people that anyone with heart or other problems might experience trouble getting to the top, which is the norm in Europe. Not like in the USA where you know how far or how hard a walk is before continuing. Anyway there were some people having to stop and have a little rest as I did. I even had a drink of water that I carried in my daypack to help me.

The view from the top is a total 360 degrees so I took many photos. Yes, Paris is a beautiful city as the tall multistorey business buildings are situated perhaps about 10kms away leaving the old ones in full view. As I walked down I counted about 200 steps, too many for some people.

Champs Elysees

It was raining lightly as we walked the Champs Elysees where we promised our families that we would have a meal in a restaurant on this famous street. At the Bistro Des Champs Cuvillier SA restaurant we had lunch, Marie had cannelloni, I ravioli plus a half a bottle of wine for FF180 (A\$45) total, expensive for a simple meal. We enjoyed Italian food and drink in France!

We walked all the way to the Palais Du Louvre past Franklin D Roosevelt Avenue, Petit Palais, Jardin des Tuileries and the Pyramide. The gardens were looking beautiful with plenty of garden seats that are able to be moved. Even though it was a little drizzly there were people sitting and enjoying the passing parade, and that is what it is with lots of people wearing the shoes out walking this most famous street in the world.

Here there were many people queued up to enter the Louvre and as it was still raining lightly and our feet were killing us we decided not to do the same.

We caught a Metro train from the Gare Palais Royal Musée du Louvre to Gare Châtelet then another to Gare du Nord where we collected our 'photos. These cost us FF480 (A\$120) for four rolls which was very expensive, the highest on Our Journey. We then caught the correct train this time back to Luzarches. At home we saw a wedding group assembled outside the other hotel about 40mts away. We just happened to see the bride arriving by car so I quickly took a photo of her as you can see in the album. We thought that was appropriate as today was Maria and David's anniversary. We had dinner in our room while watching CTV in French of course.

We felt quite safe in Paris as we have in all other cities except in Barcelona. Its a matter of being sensible and cautious just as we do at home in Australia. Sun was still shining at 8pm. Temperature at 7.15pm was 17c. Bed at 8.45pm.

Sunday 22nd June

Travelled today ~ 0km

Up at 6am because the people attending the wedding reception in the restaurant were noisy. We caught the same time train to Gare Nord then a Metro train to St-Michel Notre-Dame then another train on the same line as when we visited the Eiffell Tower but got off at Versailles R.G..

Versailles

You guessed it, we were going to see the Palace Versailles. We arrived about 9.30am but there were already hundreds of people lined up to do the various tours but we decided not to wait. You must realise that after about four months of walking (and sitting in the car) we were very sore at times. We did get to see a small section of the garden where a musical show was to be held that night. We had lunch at a Chinese and Vietnamese restaurant which was nice and quiet after the noise of the crowds at the Palace. As the only patrons we enjoyed some delicious Vietnamese food. We caught the train back to St-Michel Notre-Dame where this time we went up to the street to see a bit more of Paris. By the way, the Paris Metro railway system can be very difficult to negotiate. You have to follow signs of different colours and nicknames to catch the train you require. It can be easy sometimes but very hard at other times. We had difficulty getting from one platform to another. Another time we had to rely on a black woman to get us out and exit the lower platforms. The system is like a rabbit burrow, some stations have about five levels of platforms, five levels deep. **Amazing!**

The system is well patronised even on the weekend, the trains are sometimes packed with people. If you want people, Europe has plenty.

We saw the River Seine again, another cathedral and a street with plenty of little restaurants of many ethnic food that have samples of their meals on display. Some operators even talk to you to try to convince that now is the time to eat but not hassling. Back home by 5pm as we just beat a heavy downpour at 5.10pm. Well that is the last time for us to see the wonderful city of Paris with its parks, trees, flowers, multicultural population, no trams.

We watched a programme on CTV of six children doing a tour of the Versailles Chateau so we saw a little of what we missed. Later I watched some cartoons dubbed in French, Tom and Jerry, Road Runner and Benny Hill, very funny. After dinner we finished of the Berry wine, yummy.

Bed at 9.15pm.

Monday 23rd June

Travelled today ~ 0km

Up at 9.30am for a rest day. I 'phoned Sodexa the Peugeot company to confirm where and when we would drop Tiffany off. It was to be as planned so that was OK. We spent the day sorting our luggage which included the many packets of photos and various docketts, receipts, maps and brochures. I

even totaled the cost of accommodation in all countries which was interesting. We felt as though we were approaching the end of Our Journey even though we had another month remaining. Tomorrow we hoped to go to Disney Land and checkout the CDG airport. Bed at 9pm with the sun still shining.

Tuesday 24th June

Travelled today ~ 105km

Up at 7am for an early start to visit Disneyland Paris. The day that we first checked in the young man in the office told me that the best way to get to CDG airport was to go up to Senlis then onto the big A1 highway but after studying the map I decided we would try by using the smaller and nearer highway, which I don't know the number of, as this would be about 20km shorter. So after about 3km we turned right instead of left. A sign we came upon meant we were travelling in the wrong direction which I confirmed by checking our compass, it was very cloudy so we couldn't go by the sun. We turned back and finally got onto the small highway then saw a sign to CDG so we did another U-turn not on the highway of course but by using an exit then an entry back onto the highway. I turned off at the sign which was rather small so we had bad feelings about this way. The next sign was a road map of the CDG area which would have been almost impossible to follow. The CDG airport is huge.

So another U-turn and we decided to go home arriving at 10.30am. We did and had a cuppa to calm us down as we knew we wouldn't get to Disneyland today but we decided to do another dummy run to CDG. We went the long way as the young man had suggested, not through Senlis but a shorter way via Chantilly. We got onto the big A1 highway where we paid the toll fee of A\$1.25 (FF5) toll. Now we were amongst the very busy A1, at last. We arrived at the CDG exit which is about 10km from the toll gate. Big airports like CDG are quite complicated to navigate although I thought I would have been hassled by other motorists like Australian drivers but we were not, no tooting or yelling out by anyone.

We drove right into the centre of the number 2 terminal and found the Rental car entrance which is where the Sodexa section was so being happy that we accomplished this correctly we went back to the A1 highway so we exited it near Senlis. Yes we did it again, took a wrong turn but it was the way the man had originally told us. We had lunch at a little restaurant where we enjoyed pepper steak and salad. At Chantilly we saw a Chateau Museum Conde and the Living Horse Museum called "Vivant-du-

Cheual". We arrived back home at 3.30pm after another exhausting day. We both had an hours sleep then on CTV watched an old Australian series called "Boney" with Cameron Daddo. Remember it? It was dubbed in French as usual but we got the gist of the story OK.

We made our own dinner at 8pm when the Temperature was 19c then bed at 9.30pm.

Wednesday 25th June

Travelled today ~ 200km

Temperature ~ 13c

Up at 7am by my watch alarm as we wanted an early start again. We decided to go via Senlis this time and got onto the A1 without any trouble. By the way, Senlis is an interesting town as there are high stone walls or fences which are built right to the edge of the road. Many French towns are built this way which made it very difficult for armies to move quickly, which is what happened in WW2. Many French movies that need to depict these scenes are made in Senlis.

We passed the CDG exit and checked the time of our travel from home so we would know what to allow when we depart Paris. We followed special Disneyland Paris signs just after CDG on various highways although one was a bit tricky. We made a correct decision and continued. By now the traffic was horrendous, cars and semi-trailer trucks but still no hassling from anyone as we did have to slow down a few times to read signs.

We arrived at Disneyland Paris at 9am parking Tiffany in a huge car park with very downcast skies. You know when you are on American (owned) soil as the facilities are clean, the lawns and walkways are in tip-top condition. Entry cost FF195 (A\$45.50) each but is really worth it. We have been to Disney World in Florida so we compared things all the time but we must say that this Paris one is not up to the standard to the one in Florida. But of course we had a very enjoyable time just the same. For lunch we had fish and chips at Toad Hall which was an English restaurant, I think this was the first time on Our Journey that we had fish&chips. Yummy!

A big downpour at 5pm so we finished the day with a ride on the Steam Train then had dinner of salad rolls at a fast food shop. Then we had a problem to find our way out. This was a bit disappointing as many other people couldn't find it either, Disney staff told us which way. Tiffany got us back to the big A1 where there was a traffic snarl for half an hour or so finally arriving home at 8.30pm.

It was a terrific day, we went into It's A Small World twice and many other attractions. The street parade was disappointing though with a weird theme, terrible ugly animals and people, quite scary for young children. See the many photos in the album. A fitting end to the European part of Our Journey.

Bed at 9.45pm.

Thursday 26th June

Travelled today ~ 0km

It rained all night and still in the morning so we will stay home so up at 8am.

We bought a 'phone card from the woman in the office of the hotel costing FF50 (A\$12.50) so I could 'phone Air France and Joyce Limon in London. As usual when you use a 'phone in any country there is always a hassle, what digit/s to dial first, whether to insert coins etc. I had plenty so I asked the woman in the office who could speak no English or Español for her help. She gave me the correct number for Air France and I got through straight away. The man spoke English and informed me that our flight to London was OK and to be at CDG only one hour before takeoff.

I then 'phoned Joyce and confirmed that it was OK for us to stay with her and Donald in London, she was excited that we would see each other soon and of course it would be OK.

Later Marie gave the woman in the office a little gift, she was so surprised that someone was giving her a gift. I washed Tiffany by using a small plastic rubbish bin from our room, from a tap at the rear of the hotel. I wanted her to be as clean as possible inside and outside before we handed her back to Sodexa. Remember, she was still our property, not like a rental or hire vehicle. We made dinner in our room because we needed to finish some of the food and drink that we had accumulated. We watched "Little House On The Praire" on CTV dubbed in French before bed at 9pm.

Friday 27th June

Temperature ~ 12c

Travelled today ~ 0km

Up at 7.45am for our last full day in Europe which we were a bit sad to face. What a fantastic and difficult time we have had in this interesting part of the world.

We walked up the streets to Luzarches which is about 1km from the hotel. I finally took a photo of the lovely trees lining the street with their different colours. We hadn't been able to do this before because it's always been very overcast. We had one

more pleasant surprise in that there was a market operating in the little square. See the photos in the album of the various stalls where we purchased some cherries and a cooked chicken for our lunch and dinner. An old woman near the fruit stall heard that we were Australians and she told us in French that she watched the Australian series called "boney".

Bien!

Back home at 11.30am for our lunch of the chicken then doing our packing. We had a sleep then watched CTV about Epcot in the US. For dinner we finished the chicken, bread and the rest of the peanut chocolate while it was still raining. We have been very fortunate that up to now we have only had about twenty days of rain but most times it's only light drizzle, not like our Queensland downpours.

Saturday 28th June

Bonjour

Up earlier than ever at 6am by my alarm watch, UK and Ireland here we come.

We departed at about 8am. We drove northwards as we had done our dummy run, to Senlis then onto the big A1 highway. We arrived at CDG at about 10.30am and went straight to the Car Rental section where the Sodexa depot was which we found after asking a woman because there was no sign at the entrance. I signed the paper that relinquished our ownership of Tiffany, that she was bought back as per the agreement by Sodexa. The man asked me the approximate distance in kilometres that Tiffany had travelled and I replied "about 16,000km". I went back out to Tiffany where Marie was still waiting and took all our luggage out onto a trolley.

Au revoir to Tiffany, our mobile friend for four months.

It was sad leaving the corner of CDG wondering what the actual distance Tiffany had travelled was 29km a long way in four months and me doing all the driving and Marie being my personal navigator and doing an excellent job. Merci my darling.



In the CDG terminal we went to Hall B where we checked in. We were overweight. My suitcase weighed in at 33.2kg which was 13.2kg over and Marie's was 24kg, 4kg over. WOW. Would we have to pay excess baggage? No, we were lucky this time.

From there we had lunch of salad rolls and beer. Our Air France flight AF812 took off on time at 1.00pm. We saw rabbits again on the grassed sections near the runways.

Au revoir France and Europe.

Notes for France

I say that French women are the prettiest of all although Marie doesn't agree with me.

All people except the man in Spain who delivered Tiffany were very polite, friendly and helpful, contrary to what we were led to believe. Their TV news is 90% French. We would return to France if we ever had the opportunity, it's a lovely country and so too are the people. The most difficult part of navigating in France was where a town name would not be repeated again. I will try to explain. The red poppies that we saw so much of are called "Flanders poppies".

After negotiating a couple of roundabouts or other intersections, we would be heading to as an example, Gisors. At some point in a town a Gisors sign was not seen but another town's name would be. If this town was not in our atlas we were lost. So the best thing we discovered to do was to keep going a kilometre or so out of town then turn back and most times we found Gisors on a sign. In other words the same town names were not always displayed when entering the town from different directions.

We arrived at Heathrow Airport at 1.10 pm, no the flight was more than ten minutes allowing for one hour time difference the flight was really 1.10 hours long.

Hello UK

England

AS\$	~Pound 0.4
Population	~57,870,000
Petrol price	~ AS\$1.50 p/l

London

Population	~ 6,800,00
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All was going to plan until Marie's suitcase and about fifteen other peoples baggage had not arrived. An American man was rather offensive by hassling and being rude to the woman at the Lost Baggage counter. We were wondering what Joyce and Donald were doing as they were to pick us up at the airport. Anyway after a couple of hours Marie's suitcase was the first to arrive and so we continued through where Joyce and Donald were waiting in the Arrivals hall. We next needed to see someone about our change of collection time of our UK and Ireland Hertz rental car which we booked and paid for in Australia.

We used the 'phone at the unmanned Hertz desk that was a direct line to a Hertz office to tell them that we would not collect it now but on Monday night. OK, so far that is. Donald drove us to their home in the centre of London. It's actually in the old Scotland Yard building. We drove past Buckingham Palace on our way where we had to check in at the security gate. Joyce made cups of tea for all then we walked to St James Park,

The Horse Guards, Admiralty Arch and back home at 8pm. We all had a great chat time then dinner at 9pm with sweet sherry.

Sunday 29th June

Up at 6.30am and we could see the Thames River below our bedroom. and Big Ben around the corner which chimes every quarter hour day and night.

We were told very interesting news that Donald and Joyce had been knighted and would be Sir and Lady Limon in October. Great!

We now began the final fifth of Our Journey, it has been a long time away from our families. Joyce and Donald took us by London bus to Covent Garden where there are numerous shops, stalls and restaurants. They paid for our lunch of sausages, lettuce and bread roll. We went back home by London taxi where I sat facing the back. Dinner at 7pm and bed at 10.45pm as we still had plenty to talk about as we had not seen Joyce and Donald for a six years.

Monday 30th June

Our Journey to Europe, UK and Ireland



Today was an historical day as at midnight the UK handed back Hong Kong to China.

Up at 7.30am for Joyce to take us at 8.30am to the Houses of Parliament for us to be taken on a tour of both houses. We posted postcards from the House Of Representatives and the tour guide man posted four from the House Of Lords. Super. Later we saw the Speakers Procession there which is very short but cute.

We walked to Buckingham Palace where we were too late to witness the Changing Of The Guard but it was still very impressive. Looking back now after Princess Diana's death we can understand how so many people put so many flowers and were so affected by her death. Remarkable!

God Bless Diana.

Later we saw the Palace Of Westminster, Nelson's Column and other historical things. Back home where I had a sleep then dinner at 6.30pm. Donald then took me by the Underground railway to Heathrow Airport to collect the rental car. The black man at the Hertz office was fantastic. We decided days ago that we would update from a C category car to a D grade which would have a bigger boot for our baggage. He said that because we were renting the car for longer than most people, being 31 days and we had come from so far away that he would make sure that we would get a very comfortable car.

We didn't want a hatchback type because they are too easily broken into so the next was a Mercedes - Benz. Wow I exclaimed, how big is this Mercedes Benz. Anyway he took me out into the yard where I checked it out. The boot was not much bigger than Tiffany's but yes I would take it. It was a G class car and cost only £5 extra per day, the same as for a D class upgrade so that was excellent. In other words for about A\$10 more per day. It was a silver model C180 Elegance Au.

Donald was so surprised and happy for us that he could hardly believe it. He guided me back home and just as well it was so late because I had to get used to driving on the other side of the road again. The two days rest from driving on the right side of the road was very beneficial as it cleared my mind somewhat because I got back to normal fairly quickly. The traffic was very light as we arrived home at 11.15pm.

Marie and Joyce were also astounded that I was so fortunate to get such a good car. We nicknamed her "Olivier".

Olivier

Bed at midnight and very tired.

Tuesday 1st July

Travelled today ~ 113mls

We rose at 7am with light rain or mist. After breakfast we said our goodbyes to Joyce as we might not see her again. At 8.15am Donald was so very good to us as he came with us to guide us northwards out of London. It was morning peak traffic but it was so orderly, no abusive drivers and it was really easy for me. Near a railway station about 10km north Donald showed us on the map where to continue then left us and caught a tube train back to London central. We missed the entry to the big M25 Ring Road somehow and continued on the M1/E13 then at Buzzard we entered A428 then the A1.

We passed through the town called "Bedford" where the cars and trucks of the same name was (or still are?) manufactured. At Peterborough we had lunch at a McDonald's. What cute little towns so far. The countryside was very similar to France as there were the usual red poppies, wheat fields and briar roses in abundance.

From here we joined the A47 which goes to Norwich and checked into our very first Bed and Breakfast accommodation which was called Oversley Lodge for A\$60 (£30) and a park for Olivier. Olivier had cruise control which would have been more useful in Spain and Italy but

nevertheless it was handy on the big highways even though they are quite short by Australian standards.

The woman was so very friendly and we said that if this is what English B&Bs are then most of our accommodation will be great for the rest of Our Journey. We have no record of the time we arrived but it was probably about 3pm as Marie had a sleep while I read Olivier's manuals, yes in English and test all in sundry.

For dinner in our room we had chicken and coleslaw, pickled onions, brown bread and sherry drink. No problem buying any type of food here in the UK so far. The bedding was back to a doonah, no sheets but there was a blanket on the bed. The toilet and bathroom was next door. I watched the British player Tim Henman playing for his country in the Wimbledon tennis on CTV. It was disappointing for the locals because he lost. Bed at 9pm.

Wednesday 2nd July

Travelled today ~ 122ml

Up at 6am and we watched CTV until 7am when



we were to experience our first B&B breakfast which was served downstairs. It was a big meal, bacon, eggs, toast, jam, cereal coffee or tea, wow I couldn't eat all that. What a difference to southern European breakfasts.

Today was the day that the actor Robert Mitcham died. We drove on A47 eastward then at Wisbeck on A1101 where we saw plenty of vegetables and fruit farms. Onions, potatoes, wheat and strawberries. We stopped at one farm off the highway and picked our own raspberries, red and black currents. It is first time that Marie had seen these southern fruits growing. Then on the A17 highway to Newark where we saw markets and Newark Castle ruins. We got lots of information for other places of interest in the UK which naturally was very helpful. The amount of food places and restaurants were many, not like what we experienced in southern Europe.

Lots of little fast food stalls beside the highway, country pubs and such like. We arrived in Bawtry to search out Margaret and Rolf as Margaret had invited us to call in on them. We had a little trouble

finding their place as we did a few U-turns but finally did and arrived at about 3pm. After we enjoyed afternoon tea I had a sleep while Rolf gave Marie a tour of his garden. We had tea which Rolf had prepared at 7pm and for dessert we shared the raspberries that we had bought at the farm and had lashings of fresh cream with them. Today James Stewart, another actor, died.

We talked for hours then bed at 10pm.

Thursday 3rd July

Travelled today ~ 80mls

Temperature ~ 9c

We left at 9am travelling through Doncaster which is the horse racing city in England then on the A1041 small highway north arriving at the old medieval city of York at 11am. On the way we purchased Olivier's first drink costing £10 (A22) then parked her in a car park for £1 p/hr and stayed for three hours. We walked to the wall but not on it then the famous York Cathedral, markets, the Shambles, which is a very cute interesting place although rather touristy. We had lunch at a little cafe, not a restaurant, of roast pork and apple sauce. Yes this is the UK.

Then on a small road to Pickering at 3.45pm where we checked into another B&B for £30 and a park for Olivier. At 5.30pm we drove into the town for dinner only to find every shop closed so we though we could have been in southern Europe.

The only eating place open before 7pm was a little cafe where the waitress was a New Zealander, a Kiwi. Her and her husband were Christian missionaries and were going to Spain soon and so we were able to give her some valuable information. Marie had fish and chips while I enjoyed a steak pie with baked potatoes in their jackets. We were back home at 7pm. Bed at 9pm.

Friday 4th July

Travelled today ~ 70mls

Travelled so far ~ 4,700mls

Temperature ~ 12c

Up at 7am on American Independence Day and sunny then breakfast as big as usual of sausages, eggs, toast and hot or cold drinks to start the day.

We drove on A169 northward over low hills and heather bogs to Captain Cooks birthplace of Whitby which of course is on the coast. His first voyage to the ocean was from Whitby. Typical English countryside with hardly any trees just bare green hills. Then onto Stockton on A174 which runs along the coastline and is quite pretty at times.