

End Part 1 of Chapter 40.1a (Part 2 is Chapter 40.1a)

It was during this seven-day Mediterranean excursion that the boiler on the cruise ship had an accidental explosion, which scared the living daylights out of us. My understanding is that they burn “bunker” fuel which does not flow uniformly. At times it coagulates and then ignites to burn off. We were all on deck swimming and enjoying the sun while Mom was having a nap in the stateroom. Everyone ran to me, and we were wondering if we needed to wake Mom so that we can be ready to abandon ship but the crew seemed to be calm and so it passed.

1. *Mykonos, Greece*



Mykonos

We bought a gold necklace for Mom on a “good deal” from an “honest” looking guy.

This was a lovely place, and we enjoyed the atmosphere and scenery.

2. **Boarded a train from Ancona, Italy to Munich Germany**

Once we docked, there was a concern that we had left something at the hotel in Ancona. We had several hours before the train would leave and so Dad decided to walk to the hotel. It was a little longer than it appeared by taxi and so the fruitless trip (we did not lose anything after all) caused me to do some running and I just got on the train as it was leaving.

Needless to say, the family was getting distraught for fear that Dad would be left in Ancona.

3. **Boarded a RV Camper in Munich (Muechen)**



We took the train from Ancona and arrived at Munich where an RV was waiting for us.

We got everything settled and it was Sunday, so the guy took off.

Dad did not know how to get the darn thing started. Oi!

4. *Travelled to Dachau*

We decided to go for a drive as it was a very nice Sunday afternoon. We headed north not realizing that the next town was Dachau. Then it struck us –Dachau? That was the Jewish Extermination camp during

the 2nd World War! We asked around but strangely, no one knew where it was and then we knew---they never wanted to know and now they did not want to be reminded.



This is a street view from Google Earth of the Extermination Camp. The foundations on the left were the actual bunkhouses.



This is an aerial view from Google Earth of the Dachau Jewish Extermination Camp



With all the sadness of the extermination camp we drove down a street and found a Beer Festival under way. A tent with a “whomp-papa” band and about 3,000 people under one tent.

Yes, and Barmaids with 6 large steins.

A drunken patron was trying to talk to our girls and reached over a few people sitting only to fall on them. An off-duty policeman intercepted him and told him to get lost. He then invited us to come to his place and park our RV overnight. We thanked him and chose to drive into the country for the afternoon. There was a crop of corn that looked so delicious, so we decided to “coon hunt”. Well, we did cook them only to find that the corn was cattle fodder, and our coon hunt experience was not appetizing at all.

5. Travelled to Nuremberg, Germany

We had met this man on the flight from Canada, had who invited us to Nuremberg about 150 km north of Munich. So, we called him the next day and he was insistent that we come and see them and so off we went.



So off we went in the opposite direction to what we had planned to see Dr Holstein and ___?___ in Nuremberg

A picture of the countryside along the Autobahn traveling at 150 km/hr.

The hospitality was supreme as we were driven to an ancient city called Rotenberg for the afternoon by these friends. Everything in this city had been preserved as apparently Napoleon led his army to the outskirts where the mayor met him and invited Napoleon into the city for a dinner in an effort to save the city from being ransacked. During the course of the dinner, Napoleon challenged the mayor that if he could drink a gallon of wine, that he would spare the city. Apparently, the mayor did, and the city was saved. (Not sure if the mayor ever recovered)

We were also treated to a good lunch in Nuremberg.

For years after we would receive a large box of treats for Christmas from these friends.

6. Travelled to Salzburg, Austria

This was great. We checked into a Campground and met nice neighbors. We toured a castle just South of Salzburg.

We specifically noted the street that we entered by so that we would not forget how to get out and it was named Einnstrasse. On the back to the Autobahn, we noted all these people flashing their lights at us. We thought they were reading our sign in the front window that identified us as from Canada. Just before the exit a nice man in leather jacket was sitting on a motorcycle. He stopped us and proceeded to write a ticket and demanded two "hundred" Schillings. We later realized that Einnstrasse means one way and we were going the wrong way of course.

We travelled through Innsbruck, the site of a previous Winter Olympics, and went up to see the ski jump.

We then carried on to see another castle just into Germany. We decided to stay in a Bed and Breakfast at this quaint small town. All the beds were eiderdown. The castle tour was worth the effort, but I am not sure of the name.

7. Travelled to Montreux, Switzerland on Lake Geneva

We wanted to see my cousin Virginia who was working as an X-ray Technician in Montreux but were not able to get a phone number that would connect us.

We stayed at a very nice campground along a lake.

8. Travelled to Nice France

The next day we carried on through a long 8 km tunnel that took us under the Alps into Italy. It was nice to see the countryside and it was a real surprise to fill gas and the pump showed \$55,000. That was in Lira, of course or something like \$58 CDN.

We got on one of those switch-backing highways that went back and forth like a snake. It was dark when we got into France. We kept looking for a campground until we drove into Nice at midnight.



We drove all the way from Montreux, Switzerland through Italy and arrived in Nice at 1200 midnight too late to find a campground.

We parked illegally along the Street which was a City Park. The Gendarmes were onto us right away demanding we move.



Mom getting supplies at a roadside market.

Not sure if the ladies are in line or are they with us?

We found a Laundromat that we needed badly and then located a Campground. We did go to the beach and witnessed many beauties without tops, but the beach was cobbled and difficult to walk on.

We walked around the Nice commercial area which was very nice.

We also decided to drive down to Monaco. On the way there we found we were on a secondary road and our RV would not fit under an underpass. Nona got out on the roadway and all the Truck drivers stopped while I jiggled back and forth in the narrow street until we got turned around.

We carried on into Monaco and found the streets very narrow and no place to really park and so we turned right around went back through Nice on our way through France.

9. Travelled to Paris France



Mom was having difficulty sitting by Dad as they were not going in the same directions sometimes.

So, she decided to have a nap.

We stopped at a place South of Caen at a Campground in a small village. It seems that we always had difficulty passing a Bakery in these small villages as the aroma was overwhelming. Yes, we bought a great deal of baked goods on our RV touring.

We stopped at this sign far out of Paris to look at our map and watch for a route that would take us in a 'circle drive' around downtown on the NE of Paris. We even had the streets named in order and repeated them several times.

Well as soon as we started seeing the handsome gendarmes standing by the circle intersections, it seems we lost track of the street names.



Did you see that sign?

Wow! We are in Paris!

We ended up by the bridge that would take us over the river. We pulled up on the sidewalk and had another 'discussion' that orientated us and we would have pass by the Arc de Triomphe which would allow us to make a left turn into the Campground.

Once we saw the arch, we also saw the Eiffel Tower and we missed the turnoff. We made another loop and now turned right into the campground with about a 1,000 camping spots and were fortunate to get one.

Dad decided to go to the washrooms as he was having a fit. He sat down on these porcelain units with a hole in the middle and a pull chain to flush. Then he started to laugh as after all we were in Paris.



Okay everyone let's watch for the sign that tells us to turn left into the Campground.

There is the Arc de Triomphe!

I said watch for the campground sign!



There is the Eiffel Tower!

Can you please watch for the left turn to the Campground!

We needed to park this RV so that we could all rest up as cabin fever was slowly creating issues within the RV.

We did learn to use the Metro and toured the Louvre as well as other touristy places. We just had to go to a Creperie and managed to eat to our hearts content,

10. Travelled through Dieppe, France



Canadian War Memorial for D-Day 1942.

11. Travelled to Flanders Fields



The actual Flanders Fields is about 30 miles from this spot, but this is the cemetery that carries that name.

12. Travelled to Rouen France



We heard a great deal about Joan of Arc and the manner in which she was burned at the stake as a witch. Now she is a Saint and here is her church.

13. Returned to Frankfurt, Germany

14. Boarded plane from Frankfurt, Germany to Calgary, Alberta, Canada



It was a great trip Dad, but I see Air Canada up there and I am getting on that plane for Canada as soon as I can.

That was a great hotel we had beside the Airport, eh, Dad?

My sisters kept me up all night!



Yes, that word "Ausgang"

It was a wonderful trip and the E. Verigin Family bonded forever.

It was worth every cent and tested our collective patience.

41 years later, it was only yesterday.

So, the trip was for five (5) weeks with our family. In retrospect all that we sacrificed for each other at that time in our lives will remain a memory forever.

The money spent was well worth it. This is not a complete story of Europe Trip 1980, but it provides a bit of insight to our family enjoyment.

This is Chapter 40.1.b and the final part of Chapter 41.1

Edited by EWW November 09, 2021