

Forty years ago the Allies landed at Normandy Province in France and the long battle to bring the world back to sanity took a turn for the better. Today the countryside that the Allied forces traveled across in the quest for freedom is peaceful and serene. Freedom Road follows the soldiers' footsteps between Paris and Normandy through picturesque French villages and cities.

# Beyond Normandy

## France 40 years after D-Day

By Iris Jones  
special writer

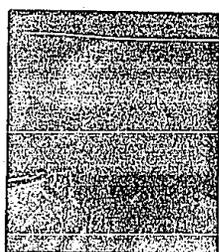
It may have been the Longest Day but it was only the First Day. It is important to remember that as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of D-Day this week.

The invasion of Europe had just begun when Allied forces landed on the five invasion beaches of Normandy June 6, 1944; the American forces at Omaha and Utah beaches; the Canadian, British and other Commonwealth forces at Gold, Juno and Sword beaches.

It was mid-September, more than three months later, before the ancient province of Normandy was completely liberated, and almost a year of long days before the liberation forces reached Maury Kiburg's home in Amsterdam in May of 1945.

Maury was tour manager, problem solver and friend to a group of journalists who went on an escorted tour of France this spring with Maupintour, an American tour company based in Kansas.

This is the first of a series of articles on that tour, which took us from Paris through Chartres, Giverny



Maury Kiburg

and Rouen to the beaches of Normandy and then on to Mont St. Michel and the chateaux of the Loire Valley.

Here are some notes from my travel diary:

Tuesday: Toward Normandy  
The tour bus drives out of Paris with

a tour guide's voice talking about museums and historic houses, while the morning life of Paris goes by the wide clear windows of the bus. Parisians are walking, driving and busing to work between the beautiful old stone buildings, with their carved doorways, red awnings and wrought iron balconies.

We are on the Champs Elysees with all the familiar names around us: the Lido, Fouquet's, the Arc de Triomphe. Roads are busy but surprisingly few people are on the sidewalk from 8:30 in the morning.

There is a sudden explosion of woods, once the grounds of an aristocrat's estate, and then the Avenue de Paris leads in a wide passageway of trees toward Versailles. All the roads of Paris once led to Versailles.

There are parking lots, construction cranes and apartments in Versailles now, but the royal buildings of the French kings still dominate the town.

THE WHEAT fields that lead beyond Versailles to Chartres are green with spring, a light mist blending them with the dark forests and the stone farmhouses that grow out of the land.

Pilgrims used to walk to Chartres from Paris. As they walked through the golden ocean of ripe wheat they saw those twin towers rising above the plains.

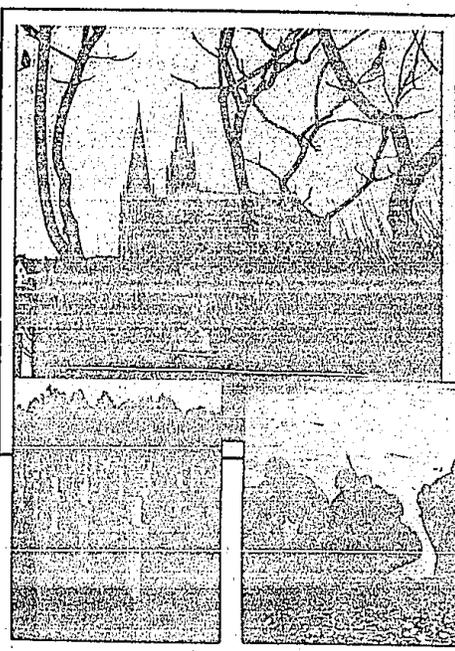
The highway that divides the wheat fields is called Freedom Road; this is the route the Allied forces took on their way through France. It is the commemorative road signs, seen everywhere in France, that impress me 40 years after World War II.

The Rue de Liberation follows the soldiers' footsteps from Normandy through the villages of France. In Loue, near Le Mans, the Rue Colonel Donaldson marks the square where one of Patton's men fell in battle. The Rue du 11 November, 1918, reminds us that all this had happened before.

Tomorrow we visit Rouen, where Joan of Arc was burned at the cross in 1431 and then we go to Omaha Beach.

Wednesday: World War II Revitalized

This year the spotlight is on Normandy, but the memories have no national borders. As our tour bus drives through the Norman farmlands toward Omaha Beach, our guide Maury Kiburg, a Hollander, tells us about the long year of



The twin spires of the cathedral of Chartres are visible through the mist and trees. Today the fields around Chartres are peaceful and green. The road past the cathedral was at one time traveled by pilgrims and once by U.S. soldiers fighting to free France and Europe. The reminder of American loss is still evident at the cemetery for American soldiers above Omaha Beach in Normandy. The U.S. Army photo below shows what it was like on D-Day.

waiting for the Allies to liberate the Netherlands.

Maury is a gray-haired man now, but he was 12 years old when he delivered mail to the Dutch underground during World War II. His brothers were eight and 10 years older than he was. One bid in the country after the Nazi occupation began. The other died years later as a result of the war.

When the Hollanders heard about the Normandy landings, they were prepared to be liberated immediately, but it was a long cold winter and spring before their liberation in May 1945. The Dutch workers went on strike to help the Allied effort, stopping all transport.

In retaliation, the Germans withheld food. There was no electricity and very little food that winter," Maury said. "It was one of the harshest winters in history."

We are listening to this story and watching out the window for the familiar names of the Normandy Beaches, marked on the brochure that each of us holds in his hand.

CAEN IS a prosperous city now as we pass it on the highway, but 90 percent of it was destroyed and 3,000 of its citizens died before it fell to the Canadian forces on July 9, 1944. In the previous two weeks, 22,000 of the British Second Army were killed or wounded.

As we follow the coast, we see blockhouses dimly outlined above the distant shore.

The sea is misty and there seem to be 100 ships at sea near Arromanches-Bas-Bains. They are rusted hulks towed across the channel 40 years ago and sunk there to make a landing place for supply ships. They mesmerize me as Maury talks about D-Day.

"On the morning of June 6 the sea was black with ships. The Germans thought it was a mirage, a reflection. When they saw the first ships it was too late. There were warships out there, wave after wave.

The highway here is called Avenue Admiral Moutbatten. From a viewing platform, its guard rails instead of markers, we identify the beaches. This is Gold Beach. The British, Canadian and other Commonwealth forces landed here and at Juno and Sword beaches to the right.

The town of Arromanches is downhill to the left, and beyond that, Omaha Beach. It stretches in a great curve of sand to a promontory, where the Second Ranger Battalion scaled the impossible cliffs of Pointe du Hoc. Beyond, out of sight, is Utah Beach.

WE VISIT the museum at Arromanches, one of many invasion museums on the Calvados coast, and peer out through the slits of the German batteries at Pointe du Hoc, but the moment of silence is at the American Cemetery, one of some 40 Allied cemeteries on this coast.

They stand in the Norman silence, small marble crosses white against the green, green grass above Omaha Beach. The cemetery has a settled look now, 40 years after D-Day. The American flag flying high above the intersection of two long paths.

One path leads from the war memorial to the chapel. The other leads from the entrance building to the cliff top above the beach. On a sunny day, people follow the path down the hillside to the beach below, Omaha Beach.

There are bikinis on Omaha Beach in the summertime now, as there should be. It's one of the most glorious beaches in Europe. I think about that as we drive on to Bayeux and Queen Matilda's tapestry, a 10-inch-high, 21-foot-long depiction of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Those Norman soldiers set out from these same beaches 918 years ago on their way to invade England.

**LET ME SHOW YOU FRANCE AND ITALY**

Enjoy the pleasure of a very personal itinerary...winding country roads, glorious scenery, small charming towns, lovely inns, cozy chalets, incredible small hotels, truly marvelous cuisine...

JEAN SUCHER at Royal International Travel Service, 31455 Southford Road, Birmingham 644-1600

**Resorts Florida**

**WOLF LAKE RANCH RESORT**

ONE LOW ROOM RATE INCLUDES: 3 meals daily (nutritional + free massages + spa for men + women + exercise classes + tennis + golf (ten, club) + dinner + dancing + night social events)

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-327-7510

**Harbor Island Spa**

Have A Good Day!

**TORONTO**

59

Includes: Travel, hotel, tax, baggage, rental car, train from Toronto plus part time with Car Card

CHICAGO 179

**CANAM**

**HUDSON'S TRAVEL SERVICE**

Oakland 585-8020  
Westland 425-3386  
Northland 569-5153  
Brlarwood 994-0085

USE YOUR HUDSON'S CHARGE

**FUN-TASTIC TRAVEL**

The Cruise Expert  
15345 Middlebelt  
581-0070  
4313 Orchard Lake Rd.  
855-4100

**WOLF LAKE RANCH RESORT**

Located on Beautiful Wolf Lake (70 Miles N. of Grand Rapids)

• Super Vacation For Families

• At Reasonable Rates

• Openings Still Available For July And Late August

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 616-745-3890

Or Write WOLF LAKE RANCH RESORT, Route 2, Box 2514, Baldwin, Mich. 49304.

**Educate Your Game**

At our adult vacation golf school you'll learn how to play better, enjoy the game, and have fun. Our staff of professionals is waiting to give you individual daily instruction. And while you're sharpening your golfing skills, you'll be enjoying luxury accommodations, excellent food, and relaxing surroundings.

Beginner - Intermediate, Advanced

5 day school \$495

3 day school \$295

APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER

For more information contact: Roger Swanson, 2000 W. PENNINGTON-LAUREL TRAIL • PLYMOUTH, MI 48186 (313) 933-6486

**CLEVELAND HILTON SOUTH**

**TAKE A SEA WORLD VACATION.**

Have a whole \$59.95 plus tax and gratuity for 2 people (10 nights) in a double room.

Includes: 10 nights accommodation, breakfast, and entertainment.

Send to: Cleveland Hilton South, 6200 Quiny Lane, Independence, Ohio 44131, Attn: Reservations

Yes, I'm interested. Please send me more information on your Sea World Weekend Package.

I'm more than interested. Make a reservation in my name for \_\_\_\_\_ rooms.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations will be confirmed by phone.

**ACADIAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE**

Sept. 22 through Oct. 1, ten days of down-east romance. You'll visit Acadia National Park, Maine, Campobello (F.D.R.'s summer home) and St. Andrews-by-the-Sea in New Brunswick plus that gem, Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island - from bow to stern. You'll stay in delightful inns and hotels. Drive in a private motor coach. Air fare and most meals are included. Cost per person, \$1485 double occupancy. Details call Hudson's Travel Service: Westland, 569-5153; Oakland, 585-8020; Northland, 425-3386; Ann Arbor, 994-0085. Mon. through Sat., from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Far Enough To Get Away - Close Enough To Get There Often

Good things come in small packages.

**Bay Valley**

Golf and tennis packages also available.

Call toll free in Michigan 800-337-8878  
In Detroit 581-9129