

A GREAT TWELVE DAYS OUTING TO SCOTLAND FOR FIFTEEN CARS OF THE CLUB "ALSACE & VIEILLES ANGLAISES" (from MAY the 24th to JUNE the 4th .

(Texte : *Christine Milton, Steve Mutch* & Daniel Melle; Photos : Daniel Melle)

My name is Melle, Daniel Melle, and I'm the chairman of an old English cars owners club located in the North-East of France called "Alsace & Vieilles Anglaises". Each year, I organize a great outing for our club members. So, it was in Alsace in 2013 for the foreign members, in 2014 in Périgord (South-West of France), in Corsica in 2015 and a "Grand Swiss Tour" last year. For this year, I have prepared a great outing in Scotland from May the 24th to June the 4th for 15 teams of our club.

I'm also member of the United Kingdom TR Register and was delighted with Mick Forey's mail of January the 4th to the overseas members. In this mail he desired to improve the contact with these foreign members. In my reply, I have spoken from our outing and told him that I should be very glad if we could meet members of the Scottish TR Register Section, share with them some good moments and drive together a part of our trip.

The preparing needed a very long time, because it was very difficult to book hotels for fifteen teams for one or two nights. Peter Johnston, a British gentleman living in France and good friend of mine, was a great help in this case: he took contact with each hotel and could vouch for our group ! Mick Forey suggested to me to take contact with these who are "here for the beer" . So I took contact with Steve Mutch and this was the beginning of a so nice story!

Wednesday, May the 24th : Stage Day 01 : Bischoffsheim – Waterloo : 450 kilomètres, 280 miles.

The "D" Day! A very nice day with a spotless blue sky! A crew is already missing: Gérard Mangel is a victim of a serious and painful viral disease.



09H30, French Time: "Start your engine, gentlemen!" Several regrouping points are planned: the first at our home, in F-67870 Bischoffsheim, than F-57370 Phaslbouurg, near a WW II Sherman tank, the third in a very good inn chosen by Françoise and Marc Collard, the "Café Le Walhaff" in Luxembourg where we have our lunch, than our hotel in Waterloo, near the 1815 Memorial, for our first accommodation.



Thursday, May the 25th : Stage Day 02 : Waterloo – Rotterdam P&O Ferries : 205 kilomètres, 127 miles.

Again a very nice and sunny morning. However, a light mist re-covers the plain of Waterloo, as at June the 18th in 1815, day of the famous battle. At 10 a'clock am, all the cars are on the start line. Etten-Leur, location of our lunch, is reached with delay because there are many traffic jams on the highways, around Bruxelles and Antwerpen. Eliane Guiraud and her friend John Schutte, a Flying Dutchman, join us there, in a very lovely restaurant named "Het Havenhuis". After a very fine lunch, we leave "The House of the Harbour" at 2 30 pm. It remains 50 miles to reach the P&O Ferries quay in Rotterdam, the greatest Harbour in Europe. We can embark from 5 o'clock but one crew can't come with us because his passport is lost. We take our dinner on board. For this night, we have a sea of oil and the crossing to Hull is very calm.

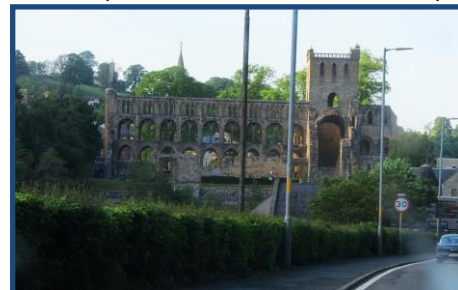


Friday, May the 26th : Stage Day 03 : Hull – Edinburgh via the Old Mill Inn in Durham: 411 kilomètres, 255 miles.

8 am, English time : A bright and warm sun welcomes our 13 cars in Hull ! After the formalities at the UK Borders, we take the direction of Durham, skirting the coast. We drive very carefully, because it is the first time on the UK roads for the most of us ! Especially in the roundabouts where the navigator is essential!



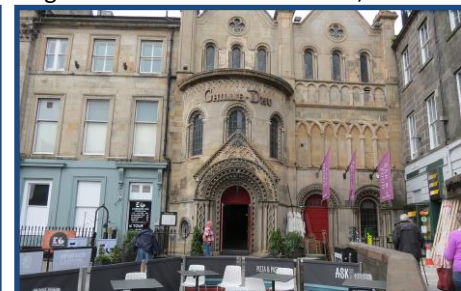
The first stage is located in the Old Mill Inn in Durham. There is the first meeting with Geoff Mansfield and his friends. Geoff comes with a splendid Jaguar C-Type Replica. But there are also a lot of different TR's : TR4, TR4A IRS, TR5 and TR6. The ploughman lunch is the opportunity to get better acquainted and to share our many old car stories !



At 3:30 pm, we take our leave of our new colleagues. We have 135 miles to do to reach the Norton House, our hotel in Edinburgh. At 5:00 pm, we are at the Carter Bar, the border between England and Scotland. It's the time to do a break and breathe for this first time the atmosphere of Scotland. A great moment ! 90 minutes later, we take possession of our rooms in Edinburgh !

Saturday, May the 27th : A day of a welcome rest for our old cars !

We rent a bus to visit the City of Edinburgh. Brigitte Swainson, a French woman, is our very lovely guide and gives us all the best explanations about this beautiful town, its amazing story and its imposing castle. After a good lunch in the Ghillie Dhu, an old



Church converted into a restaurant, Brigitte takes us to the National Museum of Scotland: an amazing place where we can meet, among others, Mary Stuart and James Watt, the ancestor of the guillotine and the famous sheep Dolly, Saturn V and the Mini of Sir Alec Issigonis ! Our bus brings us back to the hotel at 6 pm.

Sunday, May the 28th : Stage Day 05 : Edinburgh - Banchory via Braemar and Balmoral Castle: 260 kilomètres, 161 miles.

8 : 30 am, the start for the first complete day in Scotland. There are a few clouds that are unable to hide a radiant sun. After Stirling, we leave the Highway to make a small hook and discover the remarkable site of Kilbride. This beautiful little Castle, surrounded by nature, has a famous garden. Its owner, great lover of old cars, presents us his property. After this short meeting, we take again the highway, direction Braemar. We reach the Cairnwell Pass at 12 o'clock. In Braemar, the reserved inn is closed !



But the owner is present and promises us our meal in less than an hour... A part of the afternoon is dedicated to the visit of the Balmoral Castle, summer residence of the Queen. This beautiful 50.000-acre area exudes serenity. After this beautiful moment, we take the road again direction the Banchory Lodge in Banchory, a very nice place in a beautiful nature with a lovely welcome! There, unexpected surprise, waiting on us, we meet Alan Gibb, the Scottish Co-Ordinator of the TR Register, and his green Swallow Doretti. He accepts to share his dinner with us and the warm evening continues strong late...

Monday, May the 29th : Stage Day 06 : Banchory – Boat of Garten via the Glenfiddich Distillery in Dufftown : 190 kilomètres, 118 miles.

08 : 30 am : A great day begins : it's the first real meeting with the Scottish TR Register members. For a few months, we were in contact by mail and by phone, and the meeting point, located was Regent Street in Keith. It has been spotted using Street-View. 10:20am was arranged and as we enter the car park. Denise & Dave Balsover, Anne & Steve Mutch are waiting on us.

Steve Mutch speaks : *“After many emails we finely get to meet Daniel & Dominique and the rest of the Euro crew with not only their lovely TRs but a mixture of beautiful British and Euro classics. Their perfect English put us to shame but it meant we all got*



off to a great start and with the weather being half decent they were clearly having a great trip, with no mechanical problems thus far. After getting to know each other Daniel showed me the trip portfolio which we found very impressive, a well-documented time line colour brochure issued to all the cars. Does this guy ever sleep? It must have taken ages to make up. I was also impressed with the way each car was packed with all their holiday luggage and enough room in a TR3 for a decent tool kit with spare parts!

We affixed our car badges that Daniel had made for us and set off up scenic Speyside heading for Glenfiddich distillery in Dufftown, which has one of the best visitor centres in the area, good choice Daniel, where we had a lovely lunch with our new friends.



I'm glad it was a bank holiday Monday and it gave us the opportunity to meet up and it would have been great to drive further on to Boat of Garten and spend the evening in their company, but Anne and I had to be on the road again after lunch.

It is good to see a line of classics driving along the rural roads.

We wished them well and reassured them that the Loch Ness Monster does exist and they would have a fair chance of seeing him on the drive they planned round the Loch the following day.

We very much enjoyed our time with the “Alsace & Vieilles Anglaises” crew , lovely people.”

Tuesday , May the 30th : Stage Day 07 : Boat of Garten – Loch Ness – Drumnadrochit – Boat of Garten : 186 kilomètres, 116 miles.

09 : 00 am : The ride of the day leads us to the Loch Ness, the place to be when you visit Scotland. We leave Boat of Garten, turn left on the A82 in Inverness and drive along the lake on its left bank to Drumnadrochit. We made some stops, infuse this so



special atmosphere, touch this dark water and all scrutinize the surface of this famous loch for a long time. We are overwhelmed by the majesty of the site. After this amazing contact, we take our lunch in the Loch Ness Inn in Drumnadrochit. In the

afternoon, we continue the road to the end of the lake in Fort Augustus and drive back to Daviot. One more time, the landscapes are fabulous. Again many stops allow admire them. Back to The Boat Hotel is done as planned at 06:00pm.

Wednesday, May the 31st : Stage Day 08 : Boat of Garten – Eilean Donan Castle – Fort William : 186 kilomètres, 116 miles.

08 : 30 am : It's a travel to the Eilean Donan Castle in the XIIIth Century and the day of the second meeting with Scottish members of the TR Register. I'm sure, it will be also a great day, a nice ride with lovely TR's owners! We reach the meeting point near the Kessockbridge at the arranged time and four cars are waiting on us: Christine and Bob Milton, Iain and Joy Barker, Lesley and Bruce Kelly all in a TR4 and George Mac Donald und Hugh Finney in a TR6.

Christine Milton speaks : *"After a number of emails between France and Scotland we were delighted to be invited to join Daniel and Co on a part of their journey. Three cars from the TR Group plus one member whose vehicle was under repair agreed to meet up at the North end of the Kessock Bridge. Our first sighting of our French counterparts was as we approached the dual carriageway Marie flashed past waving furiously to us. On meeting our visitors we sensed a great feeling of "joie de vivre",*



everyone was happy and smiling and even seemed to understand my halting French although it was unnecessary as they all spoke good English. We were given an identity badge by Daniel a very thoughtful gesture. It was agreed that Bob should take the lead on this part of our journey and so we departed heading towards Garve. Apart from the annoyance of a very slow driver in front of us all went well. On our single track roads in the Highlands it doesn't pay to take chances. Eventually we managed to pass the driver and continued on to Achnasheen. Even with an overcast sky the hills and loch had their own beauty. As Daniel hadn't mentioned stopping we phoned him to suggest a stop at Loch Carron. Dropping into Loch Carron the wild rhododendrons did not disappoint. The sides of the road were a blaze of colour. We alighted at Loch Carron to stretch our legs and of course take photographs. One lady desperate for a cup of tea asked Daniel if she had time, on being told no she responded by saying you are pulling my leg and held up her limb as an offering. It was so funny. Back into our vehicles we now headed for the Strome ferry Bypass and on to Eilean Donan Castle. Suddenly the sun came out, we were so delighted for our visitors. Again lots of chats and a lovely meal in the restaurant. May I say we were very impressed with the meticulous attention to detail of the itinerary book which Daniel showed to us. Hours of research I imagine, hats off to you Daniel. Our lasting memory is of a group of very happy people going into the castle and waving "au revoir". After this nice and too short meeting, we continue the trip to the South, to Fort William. We drive along the Loch Cluanie, Loch Loyne, Loch Garry and Loch Lochy which all offer us



wonderful landscapes: any cloud in the spotless sky and the water of the different lochs has a so amazing brilliant blue colour! We reach the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William at 6:30 pm. Of course, the car park is reserved for our cars!

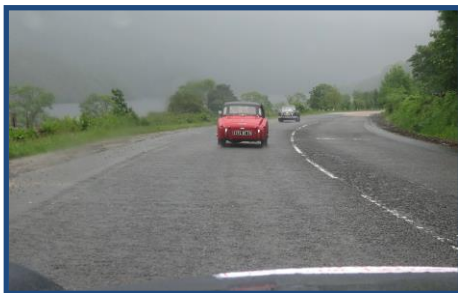
Thursday, June the 1st : Stage Day 09 : Fort William – The Glen Coe – Benmore – Balmaha : 156 kilomètres, 97 miles.

09 : 30 am : At the last moment, before the start, a modification is planned : so, we drive along both banks of the Loch Eil, than

along the right bank of Loch Linnhe on the A861 till Corran where we take the ferry to reach Inchree. From there, we use the A82 in the Glen Coe. As in the Film "Skyfall", when 007, Bond, James Bond, drives with "M" to his manor, the sky is low and the clouds are dark... An amazing feeling invades us !



At 12 o'clock, under a pouring rain, we arrive at the Ben More Lodge, location of our lunch. The weather is ugly, but the welcome in this inn is fine. After our meal, we must repair an overheating engine. The cooler's thermostatic switch is out of



order and so it is shunted. The journey goes on to Balmaha located on the bank of the Loch Lomond, a very nice place. We arrive there at 5:00 pm, as planned in the road-book.

Friday, June the 2nd : Stage Day 10 : Balmaha – St Boswells – Hadrian's Wall – Carlisle : 304 kilometres, 189 miles.

09 : 15 am : The last day in Scotland ! As usual, the weather is very fine. We leave the Oak Tree Inn as planned and use the City of Edinburgh By-Pass direction St Boswells, via Pathhead and Carfraemill. There, we have a very lovely welcome in the Buccleuch Arms Inn. After a very good meal, the thirteen cars start direction the South to Chollerford. There, we turn right on the B6318 to



Carlisle. At Housesteads, we stop for a short visit of the Roman Fort, a very well preserved part of the Hadrian's Wall which was built at the second Century (122-128). After this little walk, we take our cars for a short trip to the Cumbria Park Hotel in Carlisle. One more time, the Welcome is nice and our cars take a well-deserved break on the reserved car park of the hotel.

Saturday, June the 3rd : Stage Day 11 : Carlisle – Scotch Corner – Wetherby – Hull : 280 kilometres, 174 miles.

09 : 00 am : "Start your engine, gentlemen !" On the way to the last stage in the United Kingdom. Again, a bright sun illuminates this day ! We make a few last stops to better still imbue us with this magical atmosphere. At twelve o'clock, we stop in



Wetherby and take our meal in the Sir Dukes Inn: a very nice welcome and a very good lunch in a lovely place. At 2:30, we take our cars to join Hull. It remains 63 miles to reach the P&O Ferries quay... We arrive there at 4:30 pm. Our wonderful journey in



Scotland in now over and we embarked on board the ferry, our heads full of splendid memories! After dinner, we climb on deck and we witness a wonderful sunset at the stern of the ship, in the sky of Kingston upon Hull. A magnificent goodbye from the United Kingdom !

Sunday, June the 4th : Stage Day 12 : Rotterdam – Marche en Famenne – Bischoffsheim : 607 kilomètres, 377 miles.

08:10 am : Back to the continent. After the border control, the group splits. The French and Swiss crews led by Marc and Françoise Collard, take the direction of Marche-en-Famenne, location of our lunch in Belgium. Again, we must get used to drive



to the right side of the road and to overtake left! After this excellent meal at the “Quartier Latin”, it remains 324 kilometers (201 miles) to join our home in Bischoffsheim (Alsace, France).

We all keep fabulous memories of this journey in Scotland, especially of these beautiful landscapes, of this particular atmosphere, and of these exceptional meetings with these so friendly members of the Scottish TR Register !

Daniel MELLE

In conclusion, Steve Mutch says : “ Good memories of our Euro friends tour of the Highlands, Haste ye back ”

END of the SCOTTISH OUTING 2017.

ROLL ON the OUTING of the ALPINE PASSES 2018 !



PASSO DELLO STELVIO – 2758m