

CHAPTER NINE

Annual dinner

How nice it would be to see all the familiar faces
were to be seen at the dinner, which is always a happy
occasion. Guests welcome.

G R 5 in France

1988 - 1989

Date: 3rd June 1988
Place: Restaurant Steinmetz, Bess. (A good place
about 20/30 minutes by car from town -
direction Bothernack - recommended by our
GI.)
Menu/Price: The menu and price are to be fixed but
will be of the same order as last year.
Booking: To allow a firm booking to be made, please
act with your usual dispatch and effi-
ciency by completing, detaching and re-
turning the form to the AARS without de-
lay to secure your place at the table.
Vegetarian as well as carnivorous fares
catered for.

AARS.

John Overstall

Frank Noble

Walks

- A: 24/09/88 Donon - Gondrexange
- B: 22/10/88 Gondrexange - Gelucourt
- C: 19/11/88 Gelucourt - Salones
- D: 10/12/88 Salones - Blanzey
- E: 21/01/89 Blanzey - Liverdun
- F: 25/02/89 Liverdun - Montauville
- G: 08/04/89 Montauville - Onville
- H: 29/04/89 Onville - Chatel St Germain
- I: 20/05/89 Chatel St Germain - Neufchef

Competition	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total Kilometers
Bintz R.	0	25	24	0	20	0	25	27	30	218
Cade E.	45	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Cawley M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Chere T.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Cunningham A.	45	25	24	0	20	0	25	27	30	218
Davis P.	45	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	65
Due G.	45	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Gjortler P.	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Goodman B.	0	25	24	0	25	0	25	27	30	151
Hall T.	0	25	0	0	0	0	25	27	0	77
Hallan A.	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	27	30	77
Heal D.	45	25	24	20	25	0	25	27	30	218
Jonsson K.	45	0	0	0	25	0	0	27	30	127
Katgerman J.	0	0	0	20	25	25	0	0	30	97
Knowles C.	45	0	24	25	0	0	0	0	0	94
Le Gallais N.	0	25	24	0	0	25	25	0	0	96
Macree S.	45	25	24	25	20	25	0	0	30	194
McCrearie M.	0	25	24	0	20	25	0	0	30	124
Mulhearn Mrs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	27
Mulhearn P.	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	27	0	49
Noble A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	27	0	49
Noble F.	45	25	24	25	20	25	25	27	30	243

March Hares 1988/89 Campaign

G R 5 in France

Walks

<u>Campaigners</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	<u>Total kilometres</u>
Bintz R.	0	25	24	25	20	0	22	27	0	143
Cade E.	45	25	24	25	20	0	22	27	0	188
Cawley M.	0	0	24	0	20	25	0	0	30	99
Chare P.	0	0	0	25	20	25	22	0	30	122
Cunningham A.	45	25	24	0	20	25	22	27	30	218
Davis P.	45	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	65
Due O.	45	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Gjortler P.	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Goodman B.	0	25	24	25	0	25	22	0	30	151
Hall F.	0	25	0	0	0	25	0	27	0	77
Hallan A.	0	0	0	0	0	25	22	0	30	77
Heal D.	45	25	24	25	20	0	22	27	30	218
Jonsson K.	45	0	0	25	0	0	0	27	30	127
Katgerman L.	0	0	0	0	20	25	22	0	30	97
Knowles C.	45	0	24	25	0	0	0	0	0	94
Le Gallais N.	0	25	24	0	0	25	22	0	0	96
Macrae S.	45	25	24	25	20	25	0	0	30	194
McCrearie M.	0	25	24	0	20	25	0	0	30	124
Mulhearn Mrs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	27
Mulhearn P.	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	27	0	49
Noble A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	27	0	49
Noble F.	45	25	24	25	20	25	22	27	30	243

1987/88 Campaign & R. through Alsace/Lorraine Walks

<u>Campaigners</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>Total kilometres</u>
Occasionals	0	25	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	75
Oursin Ladies	0	0	24	25	0	0	0	0	0	49
Oursin T.	0	0	24	25	0	25	0	27	0	101
Overstall J.	45	25	24	25	20	25	22	27	30	243
Schmidt R.	0	0	0	0	0	25	22	0	0	47
Seymour E.	45	0	24	0	0	25	0	0	0	94
Seymour P.	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25
Speller R.	0	25	24	0	0	25	0	0	0	74
Sweet A.	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Thorpe R.	45	0	0	25	20	25	0	0	0	115
Turner M.	45	25	24	25	20	25	22	27	30	243
Vaudrey A.	0	0	0	0	20	25	0	27	30	102
Wright S.	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	27	0	52
Total										3816

By way of an exciting novelty, and because of difficulties (which baffled even the best brain of the planning staff, to say nothing of the lesser intelligence of the dog's assistants) in taking the happy walkers to and from the start/finish by public or private transport, it has been decided to provide the unheard of luxury of a chartered bus. The details follow.

Date: Saturday 24th September 1988.
 RV: 06.00 Lux Railway Station.

1987/88 Campaign G R 5 through Alsace/Lorraine

Newsletter of 20th August 1988

Dear Hares,

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO BE READ IMMEDIATELY

Following the bulletin of early July, which announced that the campaign would open with a weekend walk on the 24th/25th September, planning activity has been intense at campaign headquarters, where the planning staff has been poring over maps captured from the French during a daring raid on Metz, and peering at out-of-date timetables obtained from an undercover agent at CFL. A reconnaissance was made by the Chief Dog Handler and the Canine Contingent after which the dog gave the green light for the campaign to go ahead as planned.

By way of an exciting novelty, and because of difficulties (which baffled even the best brain of the planning staff, to say nothing of the lesser intelligence of the dog's assistants) in taking the happy walkers to and from the start/finish by public or private transport, it has been decided to provide the unheard of luxury of a chartered bus. The details follow.

Date: Saturday 24th September 1988.

RV: 06.00 Lux Railway Station.

Transport: By chartered bus to Plateforme du Donon
(approximately 225 kilometres).

Walk: To Abreschviller for overnight stop then on to
Gondrexange the next day.

Transport from: Gondrexange by chartered bus at
approximately 17.00 to Luxembourg
Station.

Such an arrangement will require a departure from the
norm of looking out of the window on the day to decide whe-
ther to walk or not. Nothing less than a prior commitment
is required. Difficult I know from such free spirits as
the Hares, but necessary nonetheless if the walk is to take
place. Rush now therefore to take pen and scissors; com-
plete, cut off and return booking form to me by not later
than 2nd September 1988.

Frank Noble.

This saddened, a scout and his wife motored south on
the 10th September to spend the weekend in the walking
country, arranging the details. Spirits dropped when the
only hotels in Abreschviller were both found to be fully
booked for the 24th, but the Hares' silver lining shone
through and led to the Hotel de France in Sarrébois where
the most charming and courteous host M. Jouanneau very

Walking the G R 5 1988/89

Dear Hares,

As of 9th September, 1988, the following happy walkers had responded to the Newsletter of 20th August by signing up for the Donon - Abreschwiller - Gondrexange walk over the weekend of 24th/25th September:

- Cade
- Cunningham
- Goodman
- Heal
- Jonssons
- Knowles
- Macrae
- Noble
- Overstall
- Seymour
- Sweet
- Thorpe
- Turner.

Thus gladdened, a scout and his wife motored south on the 10th September to spend the weekend in the walking country, arranging the details. Spirits drooped when the only hotels in Abreschwiller were both found to be fully booked for the 24th, but the Hare's silver lining shone through and led to the Hotel de France in Sarrebourg where the most charming and courteous host M. Jouanneau very

efficiently made the arrangements.

Frank Noble
ACT NOW ON PAR.

P.S. Late flash. P. Davis (Captain General Retd.) has intimated a wish to join the walk.

As a result of unbelievable organisation and dedication, 12 Hares efficiently and tidily filled onto the bus outside the station at 07.00 on the 24th September 1988, and sped southwards, as the Hares mobile Northern contingent.

At the other end of the scale, the Hares immobile Southern contingent (two men and dog) lay inefficiently and untidily in bed near Schirneck, awaiting fulfilment of the bus's primary function of relieving them of the heavy packs they had been carrying all week in the Vosges.

The secondary purpose of the bus was to unite the Northern and Southern contingents at the Plateau de Donon, for a weekend's walk back along the G R 5 towards Luxembourg, and this was duly achieved at around 09.45. A sharp pull upwards to the summit of Donon (1009 m) was taken at a pace the Southern contingent found unnerving, having not managed not managed more than two or three kilometres per hour during the preceding days because of heavy packs, stiff gradients and advancing years (reasons which readers will no doubt re-arrange in whatever order they find credible). On we sped through the morning, and after the usual al fresco lunch

Walking the G R 5 in France

DO NOT DESTROY BEFORE READING: ACT NOW ON PARA. 6!

Dear Hares,

1. As a result of unbelievable organisation and dedication, 12 Hares efficiently and tidily filed onto the hired bus outside the station at 06.00 on the 24th September 1988, and sped southwards, as the Hares mobile Northern contingent.

2. At the other end of the scale, the Hares immobile Southern contingent (two men and dog) lay inefficiently and untidily in bed near Schirmeck, awaiting fulfilment of the bus's primary function of relieving them of the heavy packs they had been carrying all week in the Vosges.

3. The secondary purpose of the bus was to unite the Northern and Southern contingents at the Plateforme du Donon, for a weekend's walk back along the G R 5 towards Luxembourg, and this was duly achieved at around 09.45. A sharp pull upwards to the summit of Donon (1009 m) was taken at a pace the Southern contingent found unnerving, having not managed more than two or three kilometres per hour during the preceding days because of heavy packs, stiff gradients and advancing years (reasons which readers will no doubt rearrange in whatever order they find credible). On we sped through the morning, and after the usual al fresco lunch

near Borne-Brignon (654 m), for fear of arriving too early, a diversion was arranged to extend the day's walk to something more to the taste of the lions of the NC. This meant one more ascent, over Le Saveux (501 m), after which it was the turn of the NC to be unnerved lest the leaders were lost. This was not in doubt, but, despite that, the G R 5 was again found and the bus regained at Abreschviller (300 m) for conveyance to Sarrebourg, hot bath, dinner and a short guided tour of the town.

4. Back to Abreschviller on the Sunday morning, by bus, to regain the G R 5 and a day's walk which took us out of the Vosges and into the rain of the plain of Lorraine, which mine host M. Jouanneau described as desert, but is nevertheless full of ponds and lakes. Sort that out. Anyway, the united contingents arrived dripping but, cheerful at Gondrexange, whence Claude the faithful driver drove us home.

5. By popular acclaim, the innovation of hiring a coach is to be repeated next time, the details of which are as follows:

Date and Time: 22nd October 1988, at 06.00.

Assembly and Departure: Lux Central Station.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to Gondrexange.

Walk to: Dieuze (30 kilometres) subject to confirmation, returning by bus to Lux, to arrive around 18.00.

Passports and Money: Needed. Depending on numbers, the bus fare will be about Flux 1500 each which you should be ready to pay as required.

6. PARTICIPATION. The size of the bus will depend upon the number of participants, which I need to know by the 16th October. Please telephone me by then to say yes or no.

Frank Noble.

4. Back to Arraschviller on the Sunday morning, by bus, to repeat the G R 5 and a day's walk which took us out of the Vosges and into the rain of the plain of Lorraine, which mine host M. Janssen described as desert, but is nevertheless full of ponds and lakes. Sort that out. Anyway, the united contingents arrived dripping but cheerful at Gondrexange, whence Claude the faithful driver drove us home.

5. By popular acclaim, the innovation of hiring a coach is to be repeated next time, the details of which are as follows:

Date and Time: 22nd October 1988, at 08.00.
Assembly and Departure: Lux Central Station.
Driver: By Sales Lentz bus to Gondrexange.
Walk to: Dierz (30 kilometres) subject to confirmation.
Returning by bus to Lux, to arrive around 18.00.
Passports and Money: Needed. Depending on numbers, the bus fare will be about Flax 1200.
Each which you should be ready to pay as required.

Walking the G R 5 in France

THIS IS NOT A BILL OR LEGAL SUMMONS: READ NOW AND BENEFIT

Dear Hares,

1. What more could 14 Hares have asked for on 22nd October? A luxury bus (with toilet) at a price 33% less than advertised, a gentle stroll through the French countryside, and a return to Luxembourg in time to get rid of surplus energy and money by going out on the town. The management have heard from their agent at court that the government was under pressure to legislate to protect the local tourist coach operators from such competition and relented only on hearing of the chaotic booking arrangements which preserved the exclusive nature of the Hares venture.

2. With a good early start, there was time for a coffee stop at Sarrebourg, where Bruce, ever one to get his money's worth, used the bus toilet immediately upon re-embarking. On to the start point at Gondrexange where a very large crowd would have turned out to see such a momentous affair, but missed Gondrexange completely in the light mist which had arisen. Un-nonplussed by that, the Hares followed the G R 5 signs leading along canals and lakes, where ruffianly looking fellows lurking in the reeds turned out to be simple fisherfolk who were glad when the chance arose to display their catch of a monster pike and small perch. Later, emerging to more open

country and navigable roads, it was believed that a glimpse was caught now and then of the simple indigent peasantry scampering from under the wheels of the Mercedes-borne tourists and week-enders. The day's fun ended happily at a crossroads near Gelucourt where the Hares once more caught up with bus for the snooze home.

3. Again by popular acclaim, a coach will be hired for the next walk.

Date and Time: 19th November at - wait for it - 07.00.

I say again - 07.00.

Assembly and Departure: Lux Central Station opposite the Post Office.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to start point near Gelucourt/Tarquimpol.

Walk to: Salottes (about 24 kilometres) for the return by bus to Luxembourg arriving no later than 18.00.

Possible features: Ascent of Cote St Jean (310 m) to see view back to Donon. Partially conducted tour of Vic-sur-Seille. What delights! What service!

Passports and Money: Needed. Depending on numbers, the bus fare will be no more than Flux 1000 to be paid on request.

4. PARTICIPATION. THE MANAGEMENT IS AWARE THAT MOST OF THE HARES LIVE IN OUTER TIBET WITH THE NEAREST TELEPHONE HALF WAY UP K2, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE IF THEY COULD HELIOGRAPH THEIR INTENTIONS ABOUT THE NEXT WALK SO THAT THE BUS BOOKING CAN BE

CONFIRMED. SIGNALS NO LATER THAN 12TH NOVEMBER PLEASE.
MANAGEMENT ON LEAVE RESTING FROM 28TH OCTOBER TO 8TH
NOVEMBER.

WONDERFUL OFFER BELOW: ACT NOW!

Frank Noble.

1. Nineteen Hares strolled aboard the luxury coach
hallway through the morning (07.00) on the 19th November,
nodded off and awoke to take coffee and croissants in
dinner. Somewhere in the distance. As promised, the walk
look up - here the last left off in the vicinity of Geis-
court. The weather was very kind and saw us nicely
through rural France, along the left bank of the river
Seine to the appointed spot for lunch at Marais. The
Hares there amused the local establisment by revealing their
true character as a drinking club rather than as an as-
sociation of ramblers, heavily encouraged by Raymond who
had arranged a coincidence with his birthday as a reason
to offer refreshments. Still the rest of the walk had to
be done, and the gathering moved off in the direction of
Vic sur Seine, via Mont St Jean where some of the Hares
were sporting enough to agree that it was possible to
look back to the Col du Bonnet. Vic and its ancient Mal-
son de Monnaie and church provided a happy memento be-
fore the last leg of the walk was tackled. Between Vic
and Salonne, Bruce and Norbert had a moment of worry
when the others went astray, but all was happily restored
at Salonne where the coach waited for the return to

Luxembourg.

Walking the G R 5 in France

WONDERFUL OFFER BELOW: ACT NOW!

Dear Hares,

1. Nineteen Hares strolled aboard the luxury coach halfway through the morning (07.00) on the 19th November, nodded off and awoke to take coffee and croissants in Dieuze, somewhere in the Lorraine. As promised, the walk took up where the last left off in the vicinity of Gelucourt. The weather was very kind and saw us nicely through rural France, along the left bank of the river Seille to the appointed spot for lunch at Marsal. The Hares there amused the local estaminet by revealing their true character as a drinking club rather than as an association of ramblers, heavily encouraged by Raymond who had arranged a coincidence with his birthday as a reason to offer refreshments. Still the rest of the walk had to be done, and the gathering moved off in the direction of Vic sur Seille, via Mont St Jean where some of the Hares were sporting enough to agree that it was possible to look back to the Col du Donon. Vic and its ancient Maison de Monnaie and church provided a happy memento before the last leg of the walk was tackled. Between Vic and Salonnnes, Bruce and Norbert had a moment of worry when the others went astray, but all was happily restored at Salonnnes where the coach awaited for the return to Luxembourg.

2. Once more the popular vote was for the same again next time, of which the details are below.

Date and Time: 10th December at 07.00.

Assembly and Departure: Lux central station opposite the Post Office.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to Salornnes.

Walk to: Vicinity of Amance, about 25 kilometres, for the return by bus to Luxembourg arriving about 18.00.

Passports and Money: Needed. Depending on numbers the bus fare will be no more than Flux 1000 each. Last time with 19 present, the fare was Flux 500 each.

3. PARTICIPATION. GRATIFYINGLY, MANY MADE THE TRIP HALFWAY UP K2 TO TELEPHONE ME THEIR INTENTIONS TO PARTICIPATE LAST TIME, THUS REDUCING THE MANAGEMENT'S TENSION ABOUT THE BOOKING. GREAT STUFF. PLEASE REPEAT NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER!

Frank.

Waking the G R 5 in France

MUST BE READ FOR AN AMAZING BARGAIN

Dear Hares,

1. Fifteen Hares plus Doggy Detachment left at the crack of 07.16 on the 21st January, as horizontal as possible in the bus (particularly the Burns Supperites of the night before) which sped them south to Château Salins where the business of the day began with coffee and croissants. Some rain on the way had been turned off as planned, so that the happy walkers began the day's march in the dry, up the hill to the 12th century chapel at Blanzey, where a pinafoored country lady fetched the key so that the Hares could reflect on the great weight of the past therein. Further reflections followed later in the woods when the band passed the ancient spring where lepers and other plague afflicted unfortunates could draw their water. At Custines lunch was taken baking in the sun at the defunct railway station, where at a doorless waiting room a French wag had scrawled an invitation to enter without knocking. Refreshed (by the joke as well as the sannies) the wanderers crossed the Moselle, thus making the halfway point of the current campaign, and continued on in sunshine and through the mud (which veterans of the previous walk did not consider of the same degree of frightfulness) to Liverdun and the waiting bus. It had been an energetic day with some sharpish ascents/descents, but, ever curious like their

namesake, the Hares explored the old, upper town with its splendid public clothes washing place donated by a former mayor in 1910, before embarking for the return journey.

2. Next time:

Date and Time: 25th February 1989 at 07.00.

RV: Lux central railway station opposite the Post Office.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to Liverdun.

Walk to: Montauville near Pont à Mousson (about 25 kilometres) to RV with bus about 16.00 for return to Lux.

Passports and Money: Needed. Fare about Flux 700

each.

3. PARTICIPATION. PLEASE TELEPHONE BY 19TH FEBRUARY TO ASSURE THE BOOKING.

Frank.

Walking the G R 5 in France
ANOTHER GREAT TRAVEL BARGAIN FROM VOYAGES HARES

Dear Hares,

1. Twenty Hares plus Dogbunny left by bus on 25th February for a day of alarms and excursions in the Lorraine. The meteo prediction was a usual late, and, instead of rain, the day was bright and sunny as the Hares debouched from the Liverdun Station Café (after coffee and croissant restauration) to begin the Long March, palmed off as about 25 kilometres not to frighten the ladies. Alarm No 1 came with the realisation that after about an hour's walking the happy wanderers were almost back to the start point but about 100 m higher. The not so happy wanderers muttered, but a gallant correction westwards by John and Louis restored the management's credibilty (almost), and was offered as Excursion No 1 to add to the day's pleasure (almost).

2. Excursion No 2 came with a change of the G R 5 route which led the not-so-happy ones away from the contours down into the valley, the sole purpose of which was to give the keen randonneur the chance to climb slowly to Mamey (reportedly the birthplace of Al Jolson) where Alarm No 2 was revealed as the small band emerged into the teeth of the belated rainstorm across an open plateau where all concerned got thouroughly wet. Thereafter, as the tail-end management sent out search parties for the lost ones (Alarm No 3), the

same (Bruce and Anthony) had the last and best deserved laugh of the day by strolling ahead of the others along the correct route to re-embark for home at Montauville. Buck up leaders!

3. Next time:

Date and Time: 8th April 1989 at 07.00.

RV: Lux Central Railway Station.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to Montauville.

Walk to: Bayonville-sur-Mad, about 22 kilometres to RV with bus for return to Lux.

Passports and Money: Needed. Fare about Flux 700 each.

4. PARTICIPATION. PLEASE TELEPHONE BY 3RD APRIL.

FIXER ON LEAVE 24TH MARCH TO 2ND APRIL SPENDING PROFITS.

Frank Noble.

Walking the G R 5 in France

PAINFUL AS IT MAY BE, IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Hares,

1. Last time. Fourteen Hares and Hasehund took coffee at Onville Gare caff, before toiling uphill on the first of many gradients for the 29th April 1989 leg of the G R 5 campaign which, after two hours in glorious weather brought the happy band to Gorze. The Lorraine campagne was at its best as another slope was taken out of Gorze along a forest track to lunch overlooking Ancy-sur-Moselle from a high vantage point. An enterprising skirmish off the G R 5 to a nearby summit, following the map, brought the squad to Groupe Fortifie Driant, a magnificent specimen of the 19th century fortifications protecting Metz, where John, Stephen and Malcolm were almost lost in its dark, mazy interior. No such luck however, so on all went scrambling downhill into Ars-sur-Moselle where, this time, by trying harder, the main body managed to disconnect from Malcolm and David who imagined that they had time to linger over points of interest along the way. Still in hot sunshine (with a short break at Vaux) several more gradients were taken before a quick look at Schumann's resting place at Scy-Chazelles, and a last march into Chatel St Germain and the bus, which happily did not leave before M & D rejoined the party.

2. Next time.

Date and Time: As announced in the last news letter, the next walk is on 20th May 1989, which is only a few days from receipt of this letter. At 07.30.

RV: Lux central railway station.

Drive: By Sales Lentz bus to Chatel St Germain.

Walk to: Neufchef, about 30 kilometres to RV with bus.

Passports and Money: Needed. Fare about Flux 600.

PARTICIPATION: Please contact JOHN OVERSTALL as soon as possible to confirm participation. MOST URGENT.

3. Last walk and Dinner

Last walk 1st July from Neufchef to Rumeldange. Annual dinner 10th June.

Frank Noble.

Bruce Goodman
Malcolm Turner