Normandy Revisited
By Buddy Mazzara

Our return trip was a much more pleasant trip then the first one. This time, Gene, our son, Bob, 16, and our daughter, Mary Alice, 10, were with us. Of course, there was no fighting in Europe.

On August 1st, left JFK Kennedy Airport at 10:00 A.M. with a group of others from the 1st Infantry Division who fought in World War II. We arrived in Paris, and took only 6 1/2 hours instead of 5 1/2 days and a First Class trip. We then shuttled to London and Southern Michigan for four days. We toured London, revisited the house I lived in after the war on Upper Grosvenor Street, across the street from the residence of King Peter of Yugoslavia, when we were in London in 1945. We visited the French Military Police for the entire London area and the entire Southern Military Police unit. We had a visit and a total of 92 Purple Hearts.

The next day we traveled to Southern England visiting Southampton, where we used the Port for the war to send the S.G. Brides to America, Weymouth and Bournemouth. While in this company was stationed in Lyme Regis, we received a letter from one of my comrades, saying "Thank you, Old Soldier."

On June 28th we traveled to Kent, England for Normandy from Weymouth for the D-Day invasion.

We flew to Paris on August 2nd and took a Bus, Caints the home of William Shakespeare, and stayed for two days at the Malbec Hotel. This hotel was headquarters for our division. The movie was filmed "The Longest Day," Bob Hope played the role of Captain D. From this hotel and the battle. During this time, we visited "Owingham Bay" Beach, the beach where our division invaded twenty-five miles south of the invasion. And, in retrospect, it seems virtually impossible that anyone was able to live through the assault. Every square inch of ground and water was covered with cross fire by machine guns and heavy artillery. The French Government has decided this area to be a National Monuments of World War II, one of the truly great conquests of the War. We visited the Monument and the National Monument at Normandy from Weymouth for the D-Day invasion.

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We also passed through the Burgund Forest where great military losses were sustained and 1st Army lost in a deadly battle. Boys that were not critically injured, had to be brought to the hospital because they couldn't get them out to the hospital.

Next to the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), it was quite a revealing and educational trip.

APPRECIATION

NOV. 14-20

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