

This passage is repeated in this newsletter as an introduction to the Blog pages which follow.

GLENN'S EUROPEAN CYCLING VACATION JULY 2007

I have recently returned from a cycling holiday in the UK and Europe. My arm has been twisted to write a few lines about my trip. I undertook the trip on my own and it was my first trip overseas. I was travelling for about four weeks.

My journey started with a 36 hour stop over in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. I then flew to Manchester Airport where I was collected and taken down to Wales. I spent a few days in Wales with my wife's relatives and then went down to South West Wales with my bike.

After a cold, windy night in SW Wales I travelled up to London and on to Folkestone in Kent. I stayed in Folkestone and commuted up to London by train to see the start of the Tour de France. The next day I rode out to Farthing Common (Kent) and saw Stage One of the Tour pass by.

I then travelled across the channel to Calais and on to Lille by train. After a night in Lille I rode to Tournai (Belgium) to see Stage Three of the tour.

After Tournai I continued across Belgium, Holland and into Germany where I met up with the Rhine River at the city of Bonn. I followed the Rhine upstream (South) along the West bank through Germany and a short stint in France again.

At Basel in Switzerland I turned East to follow the Rhine along the Swiss/German border as far as Lake Constance. After a nice ferry trip across the lake I was back on the bike pedalling to Munich. After a couple of days in Munich I flew back to Australia.

I enjoyed the whole trip very much and I would do it again tomorrow.

Before I headed off overseas I set up a 'Blog' on the internet so relatives and friends could keep up to date with my progress. A Blog is simply a journal or log which you access on the internet. I set up the Blog so that it could only be accessed by those I gave permission to. I was able to update the Blog using any computer connected to the internet, i.e. internet cafes, public library, relatives and hotels. I could also update it with my mobile phone if I had Wireless Internet access. People who had access to the Blog were able to put comments on the Blog.

I have included a print out of the Blog because I am lazy and don't want to write any more. The entries in the Blog might sound a little unusual at times, but I was updating the Blog every day or two, in a strange country, on my own, often after a hard days ride.

If you decide to throw caution to the wind and read the Blog, remember you should start reading from the back.

Best wishes and good cycling Glenn Mitton

European Cycling Vacation 2007

This Blog is the first Blog I have created and I have not read other Blogs before. Bear with me if I breach any rules of etiquette. The purpose of this blog is to create a journal detailing some of the happenings on my European Cycling Holiday in July 2007.

SATURDAY, 28 JULY 2007

At Munich Airport

I at Munich Airport, my bike box is checked in. Only five ours till take off. Not that I'm in a hurry or anything.

I was going the study the instructions for my new heart rate monitor (HRM). But the intructions are in german and polish. That tricked me, beacause the language on the HRM screen is english.

Perhaps I can spend the time turning my two items of hand luggage into the one item I'm allowed.

Posted by Glenn at [22:56](#)

[2 comments](#)

Its all over

(Saturday) It is lunchtime in Munich and I am just about to travel to the airport. I will have a long wait at the airport but is better to be there early. Moving bike box around takes a bit of planning.

Posted by Glenn at [16:55](#)

[0 comments](#)

FRIDAY, 27 JULY 2007

Waiting to come home

(Friday) In preparation for my departure tomorrow I have dismantled and boxed the bike. I also took a train trip out to the airport to test that process. The train system seems good but I found the not knowing the language made it challenging. I also found a airport shuttle bus that runs from the Munich train station to the airport.

So all I have to do is finish packing and strengthen the bike box and I'll be ready.

I have had enough of travelling now, I am ready to go home.

Posted by Glenn at [22:37](#)

[0 comments](#)

THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2007

I have made it to Munich

Yes I am in Munich after 1540km of pedaling (Thursday).

On Tuesday I left Konstanz to cycle to Kempten. Started with a nice Ferry trip across the lake. I hit a big rain storm. Later I got stuck on a Autobahn and could not get off because of high fences. A nice lady police officer with a big van took me the last 20km to Kempten.

On Wednesday I cycled from Kempten to Weilheim. Morning was a navigational hassle staying off the Autobahn. Afternoon featured some beautiful cycling in forests and along rivers.

Today I cycled to Munich past some nice lake scenery.



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Posted by Glenn at [23:49](#)[2 comments](#)

TUESDAY, 24 JULY 2007

Finally found some internet access in Konstanz

Well theres a bit of a catch up since the last couple of days.

On Saturday I crossed into Switzerland at the City of Basel and stayed there the night. Only rode 73km on Saturday.

On Sunday I rode along the Rhine which follows the Swiss/German border. I got to a town called Eglissau and called it a day at 116km. Just after Kathleen phoned me I was stung on the chest by a bee. It bit unpleasant but not too big a worry. My bum hurts more.

Today (Monday) I have ridden up to Konstanz which is by Lake Constance / Bodensee. Trip was 112km and due to a navigation or more correctly a language error I seemed to take the hilly route.

Tomorrow (after doing the laundry) I plan to get a boat across the Lake and start heading in the general direction of Munich. I really only have about 3 more riding days left. I need to be in Munich Thursday night so on Friday I can organise a bike box and investigate getting to airport etc.

Saturday evening I fly out of Munich for home.

Posted by Glenn at [01:55](#)[2 comments](#)

SATURDAY, 21 JULY 2007

Its dinner in Freiburg

I am posting this via email as I am having some web problems on this PC and the internet cafe owner has gone and left me in here!

Yes I am back in Germany, crossed over the Rhine this morning after leaving Strasbourg. I took a round about way of getting here, but after 101km I am here.

There seems to be a few large hills about, I wonder if thats Switzerland.

Got some new cycling shorts this morning but still have not replaced rack.

Posted by Glenn at [02:29](#)[5 comments](#)

FRIDAY, 20 JULY 2007

Safe in Strassbourg

Yesterday (Wednesday) I rode from Mainz to Speyer, generally along the Rhine or close to it. Completed 123km for the day. Should have been shorter but a few kms are consumed dodging the motorways. Speyer was a pleasant town full of grand old buildings. Found a chinese restaurant, had chinese and beer for tea.

Today (Thursday) I made Strassbourg. I was a long ride of 144km with a storm thrown in the middle for interest. As soon as I finish writing this I am going to find food. Earlier today I crossed a border, so I am now in France. I still have not replaced my back rack yet, the cable tie is holding up well.

I do not think Basel (Switzerland) is that far now. I will need to check the map. If the terrain is not too difficult I will probably keep following the Rhine. So far most of the ride has been generally flat, except for the hills of course.

Bye for now - Food is becoming more important than blogging.

Posted by Glenn at [02:30](#)[2 comments](#)

TUESDAY, 17 JULY 2007

Glenn



I will stay in Mainz tonight

I reserved another night here in Mainz. Caught the train to Frankfurt, there was lots of sex shops but not many bike shops. I might avoid the big cities for a while, there a bit awkward to navigate and they are all starting to look the same. Back on the road tomorrow.

Posted by Glenn at [20:08](#)

[1 comments](#)

Staying in Mainz tonight

The 106km ride down the Rhine was OK today. It is still hot but there is quite a bit of shade along the river. So the sunstroke was milder today. Thinking about staying here two nights. Maybe catch the train to Frankfurt tomorrow to look for new cycling shorts. Might also find a castle to look at.

Posted by Glenn at [03:15](#)

[0 comments](#)

MONDAY, 16 JULY 2007

Arrived at the Rhine River

Yesterday I stayed in Bonn which is close to the Rhine. I was very tired when I got in. It was a hot day and and I rode 97km. Today is another hot day but the riding is a bit cooler next to the Rhine. I have made it to Koblenz after cycling 88km for the day. I will probably continue down the Rhine but I might need a rest day soon, the flu still has a grip on me.

Posted by Glenn at [00:16](#)

[1 comments](#)

SATURDAY, 14 JULY 2007

It would appear I passed my University Exam

This news is very pleasing because I was a bit worried. I am now half way to my Post Grad Certificate.

Posted by Glenn at [03:07](#)

[1 comments](#)

Arrived in Aachen - Germany

Caught train from Antwerp to Hasselt this morning. Then rode to Maastricht (Netherlands) and on to Aachen (Germany). Reasonably easy ride of 69km but now not as flat as Belgium was. The warmer weather today seems to have brought out lots more people. Tomorrow I plan to head towards the Rhine River and will probably connect with it at the City of Bonn. Found the Ibis hotel here in Aachen to be the cheapest so far, but is one of the nicest as well.

Posted by Glenn at [02:45](#)

[0 comments](#)

FRIDAY, 13 JULY 2007

Had an easy day in Antwerp today

Had an easy day in Antwerp today. Just looked around and got a few things. Bought a train ticket to Hasselt which I intend to use in the

morning.

Posted by Glenn at [00:44](#)

[0 comments](#)

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2007

I like Antwerp

Today is Thursday (I had to check). Yesterdays cycling was not as good as the previous day. The weather was very cool, overcast and there was an odd shower of rain. It took me ages to get out of Brussels and I found it hard to navigate to Antwerp because riding a bicycle I must avoid the motorways. I rode 103km yesterday and if I had bought a map my journey may have been much shorter.

Any how I arrived in Antwerp last night and found a nice hotel. The reception guy was very helpful and told me about a music concert up the road. I settled into my room and went up to listen to the music for a while. I saw a map shop while I was there. I bought an icecream from the 'Australian Home Made Icecream' shop, but they did not speak much English or Australian.

I am going to stay another night in Antwerp and then head off for Netherlands tomorrow (Friday). I am thinking of heading through Hasselt, Maastricht, Aachen and Bonn.

Once I get onto the Rhine river I intend to head in the direction of Basel.

I bought the maps covering the rest of my journey and now I will be looking for a cycling shop to get a tube and better pump.

Thanks for your comments I enjoy seeing who has read the blog. My bad typing is not enhanced by the european keyboard.

Posted by Glenn at [17:24](#)

[0 comments](#)

WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2007

Post from Brussels

Cycled from Lille to Tornai yesterday morning as planned and watched Tour pass through. I then cycled on to Brussels, Clocking up 110km for the day.

Riding through the Belgian country side is good. There are good cycle lanes on the side of the road and cars give way to you often. Riding on the Right Hand side takes some getting used to. Roads tend to be a bit narrow in the towns and cities. In Brussels I hit a car door which opened in front of me, but got up and continued with no damage to me or the bike. I was able to wash clothes last night.

Today the weather is not so good. I was planning to head up towards Antwerp and then accross through Holland. Might not make a lot of progress today.

Posted by Glenn at [16:48](#)

[3 comments](#)

TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2007

Quick update from hotel in Lille

I arrived ok in Lille. Not sure whose WiFi I am using to post this.

Posting from mobile phone. Intend to cycle to Tournai tomorrow to catch tour one last time,

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This email was sent from a mobile device.

Posted by Glenn at [04:53](#)

[3 comments](#)

MONDAY, 9 JULY 2007

Watched TDF pass Through Kent

I have just spent my third night in Folkestone and I am now trying to get to Calais. As I explained in my last post I was in London on Saturday for the TDF Prologue. Yesterday (Sunday) I cycled from Folkestone up to Farthing Common to watch the Tour go through. It was a great thing to see. Normally I would be a bit hesitant to wait somewhere for 4 hours just to see a all the cyclists pass by in a minute or so. This event is different, all the spectators were into the event.

I missed my connection to Calais because I was a bit late leaving Farthing Common to meet the bus. I was not prepared to miss any of the event I have travelled so far to see.

If I can get to Calais today I still might catch the tour once more.

I fitted a new chain to the bike and it seems to be running quite well. I am drafting this email from the Folkestone Library.

Posted by Glenn at [17:09](#)

[0 comments](#)

SATURDAY, 7 JULY 2007

Bikes take over London

I have not had access to the internet for a few days. Vince dropped me off at Marloes Sands on Thursday afternoon. It was cold, wet, windy and and a bit remote. I had a dose of the Flu so I was not my absolute smiling self. I had an interesting time chatting to two young Belgian lads who were staying at Marloes. They reckon I should visit Bruges.

On Fridays morning I cycled off towards Milford Haven to catch the train to Cardiff, London and onto Folkestone. I got about 10kms and broke chain so bad I could not fix it, so had to push it remaining 6kms. Still got to Milford haven in 1 hour 45 min, 2 hours before train leaves.

I could not exit the train fast enough at Cardiff, so had to get off at Newport to catch the London Train. Pushed bike through London from Paddington to Charing Cross (still no chain). Located Folkeston train at Charing Cross. Arrived at Folkestone and pushed bike to Hotel. Caught train to London this morning (Saturday). Bought Map and Bike chain, no more pushing bike for me.

Going to try and see the Tour de France riders in the prologue from Hyde Park this afternoon. I've seen lots of places off the monopoly board so far. Will travel back to Folkestone tonight. Tomorrow will watch Tour de France from Farthing Common near Ashford. I will go to Calais tomorrow afternoon or maybe Monday.

Better post this before my internet time runs out.

Posted by Glenn at [18:48](#)

[0 comments](#)

WEDNESDAY, 4 JULY 2007

Welcome to Wales

Having a great time looking around. Everyone has been showing me around. I won't list where I've been because it would take me too long to look up the spelling of the place names. Stayed with Degwill and Gaynor on Monday night, Rose and John on Tuesday night, and I'll will see Vince and Tina tonight

Posted by Glenn at [14:34](#)

[1 comments](#)

MONDAY, 2 JULY 2007

Made it to the UK

I arrived in Manchester Airport yesterday evening at about 7.30pm. The heightened airport security did not cause too much inconvenience. Degwill collected me from the Airport and took us bag to Wales. Weather is cool and showery. Bicycle appears to be OK now I have assembled it.

Posted by Glenn at [21:15](#)

[3 comments](#)

SUNDAY, 1 JULY 2007

Dubai is Great - I mean its really HOT

Team,

Arrived in Dubai Saturday at 06.00am Dubai time. Not much open till 9-10am.

Had light breakfast at airport, sourced some maps, walked around airport to see the layout.

Found public transport buses and caught bus to Wafi City, could only window shop while waiting for the Big Bus Tour. Big Bus Tour around City was good. Dhow Cruise was good. I was too tired to go on Beach Tour. Caught bus to Arabian Part hotel. I was pleased with the cost, services and everything. Except I had too much for breakfast.

Yesterday I bartered for a Polo Shirt and purchased it. I was very pleased until I tried in on this morning. XXL size label is not consistant with the other clothes I already have (is too small), its a bit amusing because I only have one shirt. (Not so amusing for those sitting next to me in the plane to Manchester).

Glenn

Posted by Glenn at [11:50](#)

[1 comments](#)

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