

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2013



## Land of my Grandfather

I am in the land of my grandfather. Emil Muller (and his father with the same name) was born in Ebnet on the outskirts of Freiburg Germany. It is Black Forest country, the land of Hansel and Gretel and that wicked witch.

This area is known for its beautiful heavily forested uplands where trekkers and bike riders can lose themselves in the hundreds of kilometers of walking and biking tracks.

Tomorrow we aim to spend time ambling around this area and do some looking around a number of the local cemeteries.



## Heading South

Today was a day of two halves. The first half, the morning, was spent ambling along two beautiful valleys in Luxembourg. It was gentle and relaxing despite the narrow roads.

The second half of our day was spent going full tilt on freeways to get to Freiburg, Germany before the end of the day. We are now in Freiburg exhausted.

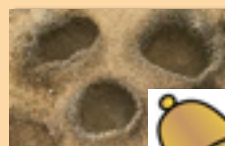
The road from Vianden to Echternach, along the Luxembourg side of the Sauer River, was a delight in the early morning. We noticed a number of camping parks on both sides of the river. At one stage we accidentally crossed over to the German side of the river but quickly crossed back. It was so much nicer on the Luxembourg side of the river. We stopped for a walk at Echternach, Luxembourg's oldest town. The place had a great feel about it - old town ambience, grand architecture, and an enormous abbey that dominated the town. Started in 1016, the church was badly damaged in the Battle of Bulge during World War II. We were amazed how warm it was inside. We walked around the town for about an hour before driving on through the Moselle valley - wine country.



continued on next page



**PEANUT BUTTER?** An Aussie would think this container was full of crunchy peanut butter. When I opened it up and tried it it was certainly crunchy but the Dutch would have a real giggle - its shortbread biscuit mix. Yum - but no nuts.



**WHAT DO YOU CALL .....** a person from Holland? A hole? What about a person from Belgium? A bell? And a person from Luxembourg? A burger? I was born in Hamburg Germany so I must be a hamburger.



**FLAGS AGAIN** The Belgium's liked the German flag so much (or at least the colours) they simply copied it and turned it around! Actually it was the other way around - Belgium had its flag first. Now take a look at the Luxembourg and the French flags!!!! Amazing. Same situation?

# We only had a short 3 hours available to amble along the Sauer and Moselle - we could have spent days here.

The Moselle River is a large river flanked on both sides by rows upon rows of vineyards. The valley is an excellent place to catch the sun. We drove for almost an hour along the valley and had lunch on the river bank with the swans.

It was time to move on if we were to get to Freiburg by evening. This last part of our day was a boring fast drive through France towards Strasbourg and then turning south towards Freiburg. As soon as we hit France the roads and the buildings began to look a lot more shabby and our fuel gauge dropped rapidly due to our high speed.

Then to make matters worse, as we were looking out for a fuel station and driving through the huge Strasbourg city centre, our newly purchased GPS suddenly gave up the ghost. Luckily we had a replacement - the one that came with the van. After much frustration, minus E20 freeway tolls, we found ourselves in Littenweiler near Freiburg.

Tomorrow we go searching for evidence of my ancestors.



## PHOTOS



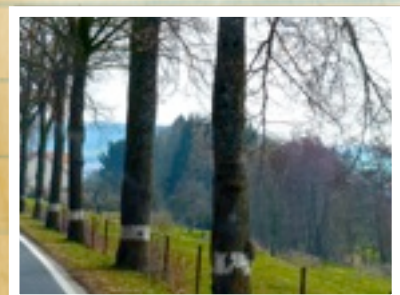
PEEP HOLES EVERYWHERE



FARM SOLAR PANELS



PARKING SQUEEZE



FASHIONABLE TREES



Echternach town centre



# PHOTOS



Lighting a candle for a sick friend in Echternach cathedral

