

**REPORT ON ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT TOUR
THE MEN FROM GLORY ROAD TOUR EUROPE
FEBRUARY 12-22, 2007**

As all of you know, The Men from Glory Road were invited by Armed Forces Entertainment to visit with troops and their dependants in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

I had hoped to provide you with a running update during our tour, but that was simply impossible due to lack of access to computers and the internet. I did get one e-mail off on our third day in Germany confirming our arrival in Munich and our visits in Ansbach and Stuttgart, Germany. In that e-mail, I made the observation that a picture, or several, would be worth a thousand words. With that in mind I give you my full and picture--full report, surrounded by some words of explanation – some serious, some fanciful, and some explanatory.

Our tour bus:



As you can see, Togo Railey is quite satisfied with our Mercedes tour bus and is proudly pointing to the Armed Forces Entertainment – Glory Road poster taped in the front window of the bus.

Flip, aka, Louis Baudoin, aka, Pepé Le Pew as a result of his little French beret, found the inside of the bus acceptable for his 6' 7" stretch version of a body in contemplation of 10 days bussing across Germany, the Netherlands, and UK.



The rest of us staked out our turf on the bus while being briefed by our driver/owner, Michael Tietze, on all of the amenities of the bus, including movies, CD player, Bose speakers, luxurious leather couches, restrooms, a kitchen, and all the amenities that a Rock Group of our stature would expect.



David “Big Daddy” Lattin decided that the left front couch was pretty darn nice and would be his for the rest of the trip. Anything you want Big Daddy



And then it was off to Ansbach and Eddie's Place to meet with the Troops and their families – Q & A sessions, the CBS/Charlie Bloom tape, sound track from Glory Road, and our 5' by 4' montage poster (below) set the stage for the first of our 7 appearances.



The lovely Ms. Vikki Hanrahan was our Point of Contact (“POC”) (pointing above) and she did a great job in getting the facilities at Ansbach ready and the crowd eager to meet and greet the Men from Glory Road the morning of the 14th.



We were introduced to the audience by Garrison Commander LTC Tammy S. McKenna after which there was a panel discussion and questions and answers with an audience of 75 to 100 people: high school athletes, their parents, service men and women and Department of the Army Civilian personnel (“DACs”) in attendance



An autograph and Photo Opportunity session with the Ansbach folks followed.

Wherever we went the lines for autographs were long, patient, and enthusiastic as we signed Wheaties boxes, Glory Road posters, basketballs, team montage pictures, and, on one occasion, even a skateboard.



For formal appearances we decked out in our Nike gear from head to toe, with Wheaties Sweatshirts inside the jackets to keep us warm (hereafter referred to as our costumes). From left to right the men from Glory Road who were able to make the trip: Nevil Shed, Togo Railey Harry Flournoy, David Lattin, Louis Baudoin, and yours truly, the ball boy for the group, Steve Tredennick.



After lunch, it was off to the Illesheim, Germany Mess hall near Ansbach, where we posed for pictures with troops and their family members including this young couple.



At Storck Barracks in Illesheim, Germany, Headquarters for 11th Aviation Regiment, our group was briefed by Chief Warrant Officer Phillips and his staff on the war capabilities of the lethal AH-64D Apache Longbow attack Helicopter, a two seater, with a dome installed over its main rotor that houses a Fire Control Radar target acquisition system that permits the detection and arcing missile engagement of targets even when the helicopter itself is concealed by an obstacle (e.g. terrain, trees or buildings). The briefing provided David, the

pilot, and Togo, the co-pilot-Gunner, a chance to shoe-horn their ample selves into the



tandem cockpits. David and Togo gave the ready sign that they were ready to crank that baby up and take it for a spin --- but weather, the cost of a multi-million dollar war vessel, and common sense prevailed and they never left the hangar.



Proud of our Wheaties sweatshirts and hats, we displayed the Breakfast of Champions sweatshirts for a Photo Op beside the mighty Longbow. Left to right: Captain Lattin, Gunner Railey, and the Long Bow maintenance crew of Tredennick, Flournoy, Baudoin, and Shed are ready to rock and roll.



After a brief side trip and dinner at the historic old town of Rothenberg. . .



It was off to Stuttgart, the Kelley Hotel, and the U.S. European command for the next day/night visit and dog and pony show . . .



At the Kelley Hotel we were greeted by a large welcome poster honoring our visit at the sign-in desk . . .



And where Harry and the rest of the Men from Glory Road were met by POC Martha Povich and Army Captain Jay Cash our hands-on escort for our stay in Stuttgart, who won our star among star award for daily hosts during our trip. They were all great, I should add. But when Captain Cash drove up to Mannheim to visit with us again and to bring me an Army windbreaker, he hung the moon for us.



Changing into our “costumes,” it was off to the Post theater where a full house of students, military service men, and DAC’s watched Glory Road.



Then our guys were individually introduced to a high school cheerleader led round of applause and took the stage for a 30 minute Q & A session with the audience . . .

After the Q & A session, the guys were honored by Garrison Commander Col. Kenneth Juergens and General William E. (Kip) Ward, Deputy Commander of the US European Command; I believe that he is one of only twelve four star generals in the US Army today and he is only the fifth black in US Army History to attain such a lofty rank, following among 3 others former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Colin L. Powell.





From there it was off to a lengthy autograph session with the movie attendees . . .



Followed by a visit to the local youth center where we met kids, young . . .



And old, for more autographs and pictures



Then off to Headquarters, US European Command . . .



Formerly General Eisenhower's command building toward the end of the Second World War . . .



And a 30 plus minute personal mission briefing with General Ward



After the briefing, we had a Photo Op session with the General that all of us will remember for the rest of our lives.

And by the way, don't be surprised if you are reading about General Ward in the next year or two as the Army's representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff – the next Colin Powell, if you will – he is that special according to his men and we certainly agree after meeting him. Moreover, he is still quite fit as he lifted yours

truly, swollen with pride and apple strudel, from this kneeling position or else I might found myself a permanent fixture to his rug.



On to dinner hosted by the Garrison Commander, Col Juergens, here shown standing and making the invitational toast and dinner remarks of welcome . . .



Followed by presentations by General Ward to each of us to commemorate our visit.

Now notice the following the pictures and you will observe that with the exception of Togo's and Harry's private moments of personal recognition by the General, the two of them were far more attentive to the food and drink than to honoring their comrades in arms – the German food, and I might add the beer, being exceptional wherever we went.



Well, it was a great day, and a long one ---time for Nevil and the rest of the guys – except Camera Man -- to get some rest before moving on to Hohenfels and another Meet and Greet, Panel and Autograph Sessions.



After being greeted by POC Joanne Love and finishing our panel and autograph sessions, we attended and were introduced at the Hohenfels' high school basketball playoff games for the boys' and girls' teams . . .



We enjoyed the first half of the Girls' game, had a photo session with the Garrison Commander, LTC James V. Matheson and his daughter and then it was back to our hotel, the Gasthof Schoel for dinner and some much needed rest.



From Hohenfels it was off to the Mannheim/ Heidelberg region and a well deserved Sunday of rest. Our day off, resulted in some photos of the majestic city of

Heidelberg, including the original entry gate to the city in the olden days, the River Neckar, the famous Medieval Heidelberg Castle or "Schloss" as it is called in German, located on the Königstuhl mountain some 80 meters (262,5 feet) above and overlooking the town center and the Neckar, and of course, the legendary restaurants and local beer taverns or "Gasthauses" as they are referred to in German.





We contemplated renting a car to take a spin around the country side, but couldn't find a match for Harry's other foot . . .



And with one of us getting mighty thirsty

We decided it was time to try on one or two of those legendary Gasthauses – so we did, and did, and did ----



With two of our brothers trying to impress our young waitress with their championship rings, to no avail, I might add: Hey Togo, Nevil, they play soccer (Futbol) over here, Nowitzki notwithstanding.



All to the delight of a most attentive and appreciative audience --- NOT!



After our visit to Heidelberg it was back to the motor coach and off to the Mannheim Germany for 2 days where we were greeted by (POC) Lisa Frankson and performed a session for Military personnel and their dependents at the "Top Hat" Club followed by a hosted meal at Wingers Restaurant, which soon found itself with a shortage of barbeque chicken wings right after our visit.

An interesting aside to our Mannheim visit was that we stayed at a hotel that was hosting the annual meeting of a distinguished group of Freemasons from the United States and Germany and the night owls among us (Shed, Flournoy, and Tredennick – all in their Wheaties Sweats) had the opportunity to share the story of Glory Road with these gentlemen and to pose for pictures with their leadership, the head of which currently resides in Muscogee, Oklahoma, USA.



After Mannheim it was off to Rotterdam in The Netherlands – by the way, is “the” part of the name? -- Home of one of the largest sea ports in Europe and one of the largest and busiest in the world. It is in Rotterdam that the US Military Transportation Terminal Command Headquarters for Europe is located and it was there that we were enthusiastically met by POC Ray Landrau who welcomed us to the single building military command facility.

Among other special treats, Doc (retired military and DAC) and his staff, in celebration of our visit and Black History Month, treated us to some Down-Home Southern Barbequed Chicken, Collard Greens, Corn on the Cob and Cornbread (all capitalized to emphasize how good it was). Doc labored long and hard over the barbecue grill, much to the apparent puzzlement of kibitzing Chef Togo, who sought to share with Doc some unsolicited advice on how we all bar-be-que “chicken” down in Texas. Doc, wisely, but politely ignored Togo’s suggestions and kept on “cookin”.



From Rotterdam we drove to Calais in northern France and caught the ferry across the English Channel to Dover and jolly old England, home of bangers, black (“blood” ugh!) pudding, warm beer, and RAF Alconbury ---- a US air force base on leased English soil, with, much to our surprise, nary a single airplane and a mission and base so steeped in secrecy and military and civilian spook types of all stripes that we would have to kill you if we revealed much about our visit.

The weary men of Glory Road were greeted by our Alconbury POC's: Andy and Cherrie, both of whom who proved more than worthy rivals in combat with our most prolific talker, Togo the magnificent, and the 2nd battle of Britain for air space began in full fury, with, I think, Andy Sharp probably taking the prize for longest talker without taking a breath and Cherrie for uttering the most enthusiastic "woo" woos" to inspire us during various picture taking sessions. I must note that it was not a fair contest --- Togo, justifiably tired after 9 grueling days of travel and intense competition, where he reigned supreme at every venue, was simply worn down and came in a distant runner-up to both of the merry Englanders.



So difficult were some of the questions that the panel had to defer to Big Daddy to look up the answers in his self-authored and published masterpiece entitled "Lattin's Slam Dunk to Glory" --- Note: with prior groups, we could always get away with saying "Read the book, Jedge , but here the kids forced us to actually come up with real answers and as you can see the members of the panel waited and watched anxiously for David to dig out those answers to avoid embarrassing the group.



After our battle to a draw with the students, we had a few hours to prepare for a session with the grown-ups and others who were having dinner that evening and watching Glory Road at the Stukeley Inn Consolidated Club, Alconbury. We arrived to find an audience of military personnel, dependents and DACs immersed in the movie, which at that point was nearing the half-way point.



And after the movie, it was Q and A time again for our panel of weary but indefatigable warriors.



More autographs and photos . . .



And more Photo Ops, this time with Garrison Commander, COL. Jack L. Jones and Major Vic Cleveland, MWR Services Director . . .



And then with Major Cleveland and some members of his staff.



A job well done, the men from Glory Road began their long journey home, not much worse for the wear and tear, but then old used vehicles don't have much room to show wear and tear, do they.

David relaxing now with the confidence of a job well done . . .



And Silvio, our second and final bus driver, an East German by birth, pensively reflecting on his ventures with these Men from Glory Road, and formulating his good byes that would go something like this: "so long, it's been good to know you --- Well, maybe, I think!"



A Parting observation by all of us that were fortunate enough to make this trip and given an opportunity to do something for our country and our armed services. --- "We say to the Men and Women and their families of the Armed Forces and Armed Forces Entertainment, Captain Jesse Davidson, George DeGrella and all of the MWR folks at the various bases we visited and to Disney, Bruckheimer, Wheaties, CBS and Charlie Bloom, UTEP, Nike, Jorge Garza and his wife, Rich Clarkson and associates, Dan Wetzel, Coaches Don Haskins and Moe Iba and the rest of the men and women of Glory Road that weren't able to join us, and all of you that have supported our journey along the way ---Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making this not only possible but a memory of a lifetime."



Pinching and mixing my metaphors a bit ----- "Th-th-th-that's all folks!"