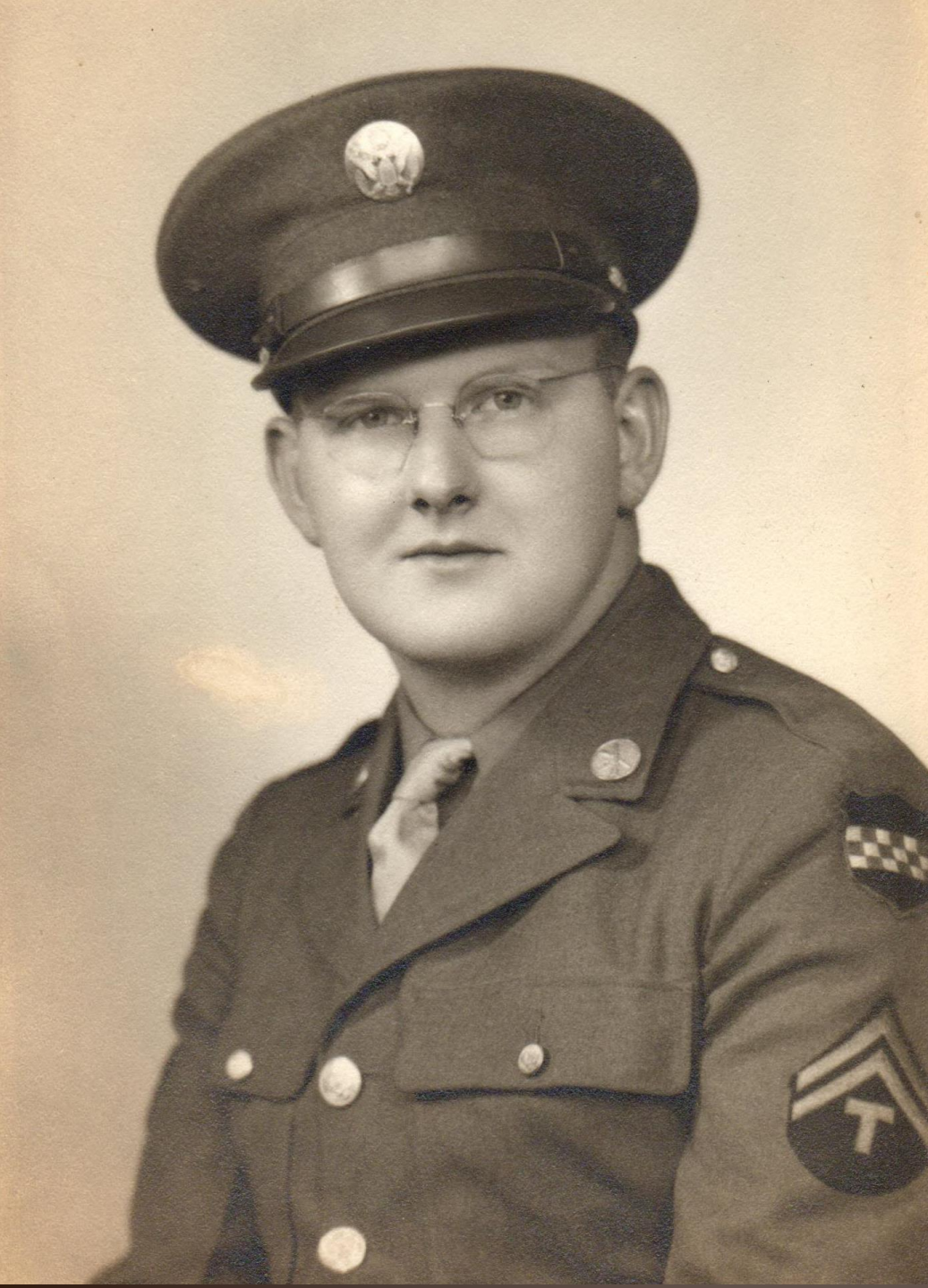


Euro 2015 March 12-19



BATTLE OF THE BULGE





This trip was unique for us. No new countries or states, but a tracing of the towns Ed's dad, Edward J. Stein, went during his WW2 tour Sept 1944 – May 1945. We drove through tiny towns and villages... wondering how and why the military moved huge groups of people and equipment to all these places, often over very difficult terrain.

SERVICE COMPANY, 395th INFANTRY
APO 442, U. S. Army

ROAD TO VICTORY

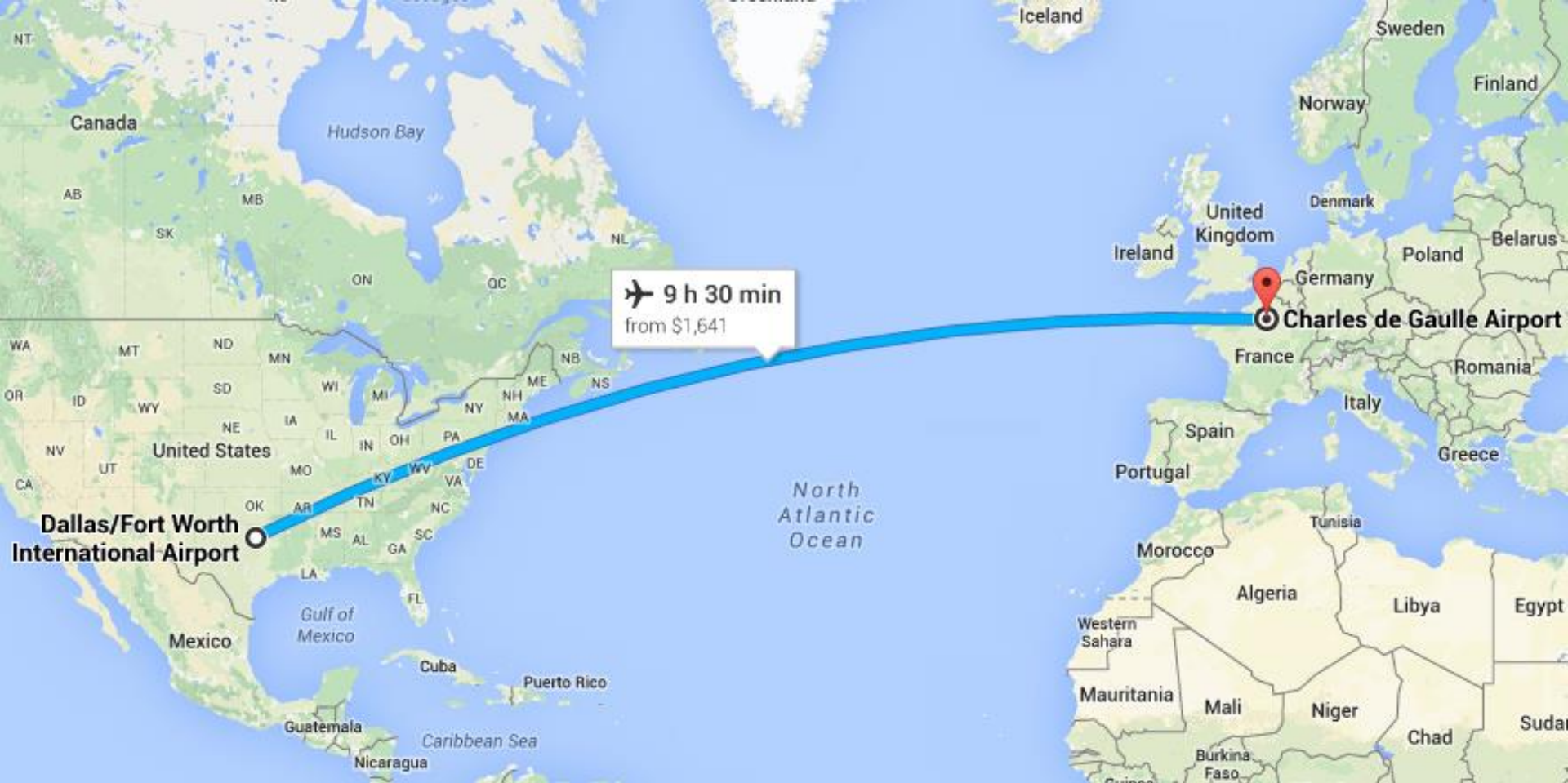
Following is a chronological and geographical list of locations of this unit's headquarters from the periods of packing TAT boxes to its absorption by the First Division

DATE	PLACE
16 September 1944	Camp Hazy, Texas
18 September 1944	Camp Hylee Standish, Mass.
28 September 1944	Boston, Mass.
9 October 1944	Plymouth, England
10 October 1944	Dorchester, Dorset, England
1 November 1944	Southampton, England
3 November 1944	Le Havre, France
4 November 1944	La Peulille, France
5 November 1944	Aubel, Belgium
9 November 1944	Eisenborn, Belgium
12 November 1944	Kaltenberg, Germany
12 December 1944	Erinkel, Belgium
17 December 1944	Hellenthal, Belgium
18 December 1944	Camp Eisenborn, Belgium
22 December 1944	Sourbrodt, Belgium
4 February 1945	Eisenborn, Belgium
20 February 1945	Clermont, Belgium
27 February 1945	Stolberg, Germany
28 February 1945	Elsdorf, Germany
3 March 1945	Berghain, Germany
5 March 1945	Neukirchen, Germany
9 March 1945	Grossenried, Germany
10 March 1945	Adendorf, Germany
12 March 1945	Bodenorf, Germany
13 March 1945	Rhine River Crossed
13 March 1945	Unkel, Germany
14 March 1945	Dattenberg, Germany
23 March 1945	Obr. Buchenau, Germany
26 March 1945	Hillingen, Germany
27 March 1945	Wallmerod, Germany
28 March 1945	Hinterwellingen, Germany
29 March 1945	Wieser, Germany
1 April 1945	Gemular, Germany
4 April 1945	Richtstein, Germany
7 April 1945	Aue, Germany
8 April 1945	Ogdenau, Germany
9 April 1945	Lenne, Germany
10 April 1945	Langemar, Germany
11 April 1945	Weggen, Germany
12 April 1945	Hawenohl, Germany
13 April 1945	Hoveringhausen, Germany
16 April 1945	Immer, Germany
17 April 1945	Immerbach, Germany
18 April 1945	Lisberg, Germany
22 April 1945	Roth, Germany
24 April 1945	Rosenhofen, Germany
26 April 1945	Lobbing, Germany
28 April 1945	Seid, Germany
29 April 1945	Dahme River Crossed
30 April 1945	Gerardorf
2 May 1945	Woodsburg, Germany
3 May 1945	Sausborn, Germany
8 May 1945	Victory in Europe
9 May 1945	Bad Kissingen, Germany
9 May 1945	Camp Hammelburg, Germany

WAS THIS TRIP NECESSARY?...GOOD LUCK, BOYS!

This is a planning pic in Ed's garage with the framed list of towns his dad went through. Also noteworthy is the Kehlsteinhaus mug from our 2010 trip from restaurant near Hitler's Eagle's Nest.



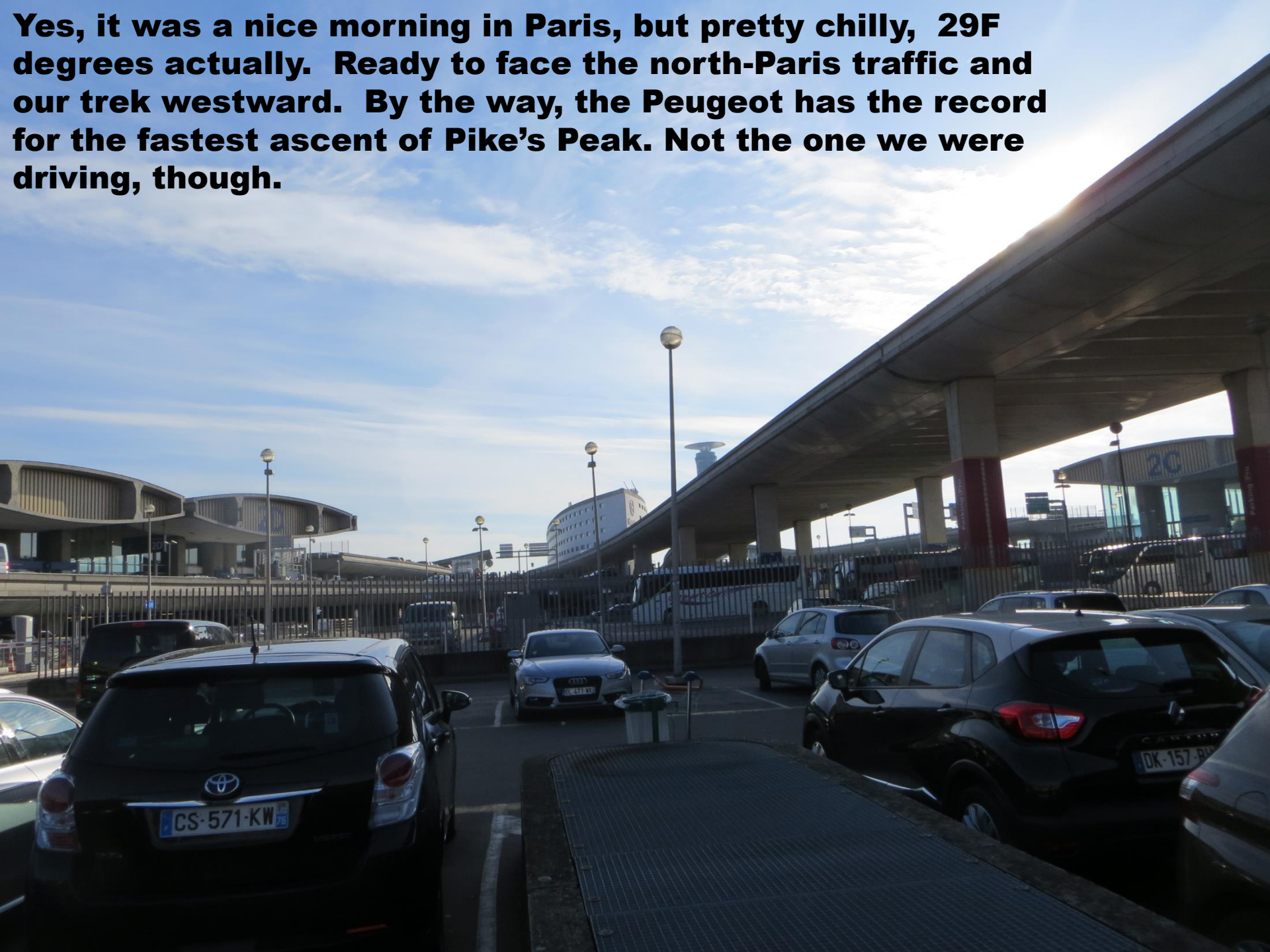


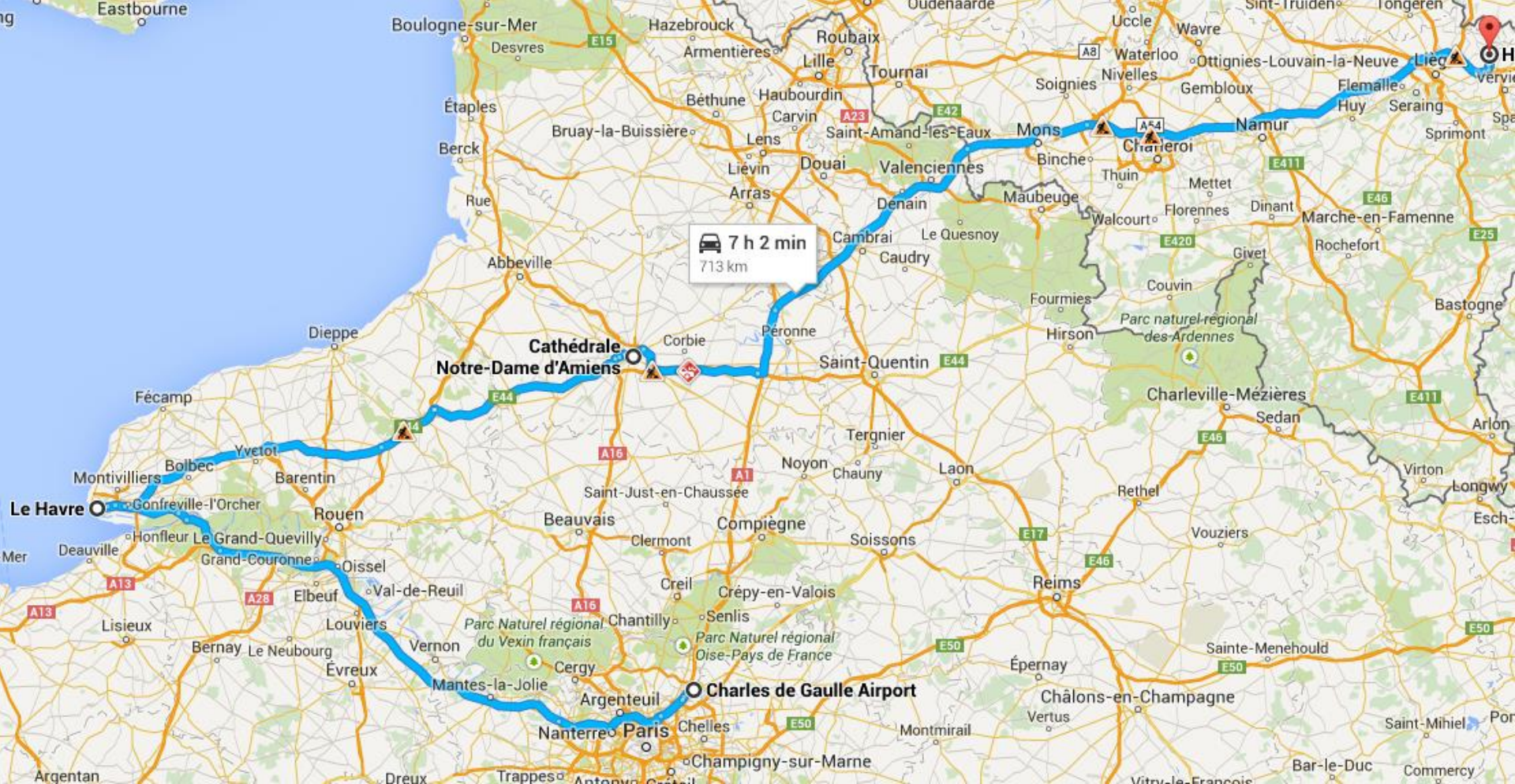
Day #1, 12 March 2015. Our Austin to DFW flight left at 2:35p. Our DFW to CDG left at 4:50p and arrived at 7:45a on Mar 13. It was about a 9 hour flight. A very long time to sit with only an occasional stretch.



Day #2 – 13 March 2015. It was a sunny morning in Paris. We got off the plane and bussed over to terminal 2 where we found the Europcar desk to get this Peugeot. 9:17am

Yes, it was a nice morning in Paris, but pretty chilly, 29F degrees actually. Ready to face the north-Paris traffic and our trek westward. By the way, the Peugeot has the record for the fastest ascent of Pike's Peak. Not the one we were driving, though.





CDG to La Havre, France to Amiens Cathedral, to Aubel and La Wadeleux Hostillerie, Charnaux, Belgium, (with a distant “wave” to Le Feuillie on the way to La Havre) 450 miles.



Le Feuillie



**After our “nod” at Le Feuillie,
we made our first stop at La
Havre, France, where Ed’s dad
entered the country. 12:32pm**

Océane Meubles

CAR FERRIES

LE HAVRE - CENTRE

Les Jardins Suspendus

MEUBLES

LES TENTATIONS
13130 MARS
NOUVELLE COLLECTION 2011

rochebobois

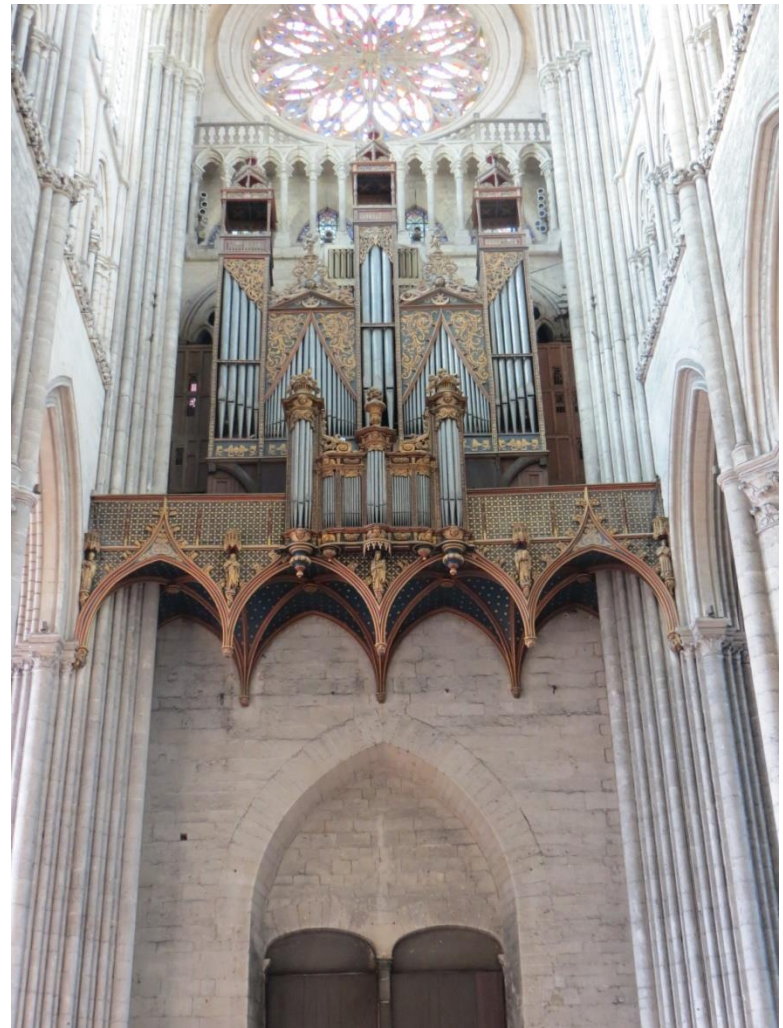
Rue Ferme d'Ambusc - Parc Estuaire
GONFREVILLE L'ORCHER

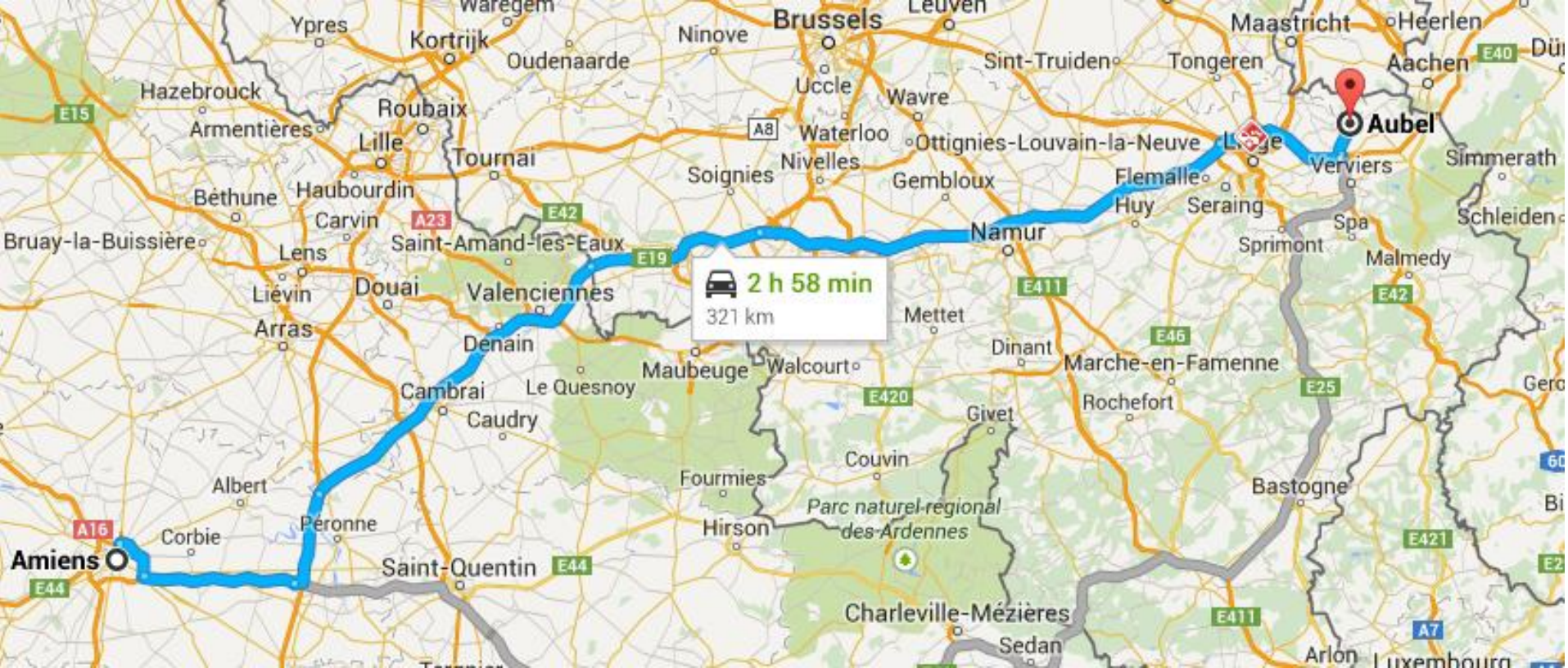


From La Havre we headed toward Belgium. Stopped about 30 min. east of La Havre for a truck stop sandwich, then another stop in Amiens to see the famous Gothic cathedral – and stretch the legs.



While the church of Amiens goes back to 346, this late, High Gothic cathedral - *Cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Amiens* was built 1236-1269, with the two unequal towers – one on right completed in 1366 and left tower in 1402. This is the west façade. 3:25pm





Our goal was the Val-Dieu Abbey and Brewery in Aubel, Belgium where the monks have been making beer for centuries. By this time it was 7pm or after and they were closed. With the jet lag thing, plus having driven 450 miles, it was time to hang it up for the night. Did a “lodging” search on the Garmin and found La Wadeux Hostillerie only a mile or so away. By that time it didn’t matter. If they had a room, food, and of course, beer, wifi (weefee as Patrick called it) we were taking it. They did... we did.



Yup, this place would suffice for dinner. Table pictured here is where we ate breakfast the next morning.



One thing for sure... those Val-Dieu monks have the beer-brewing thing down. This was one of the best brews of the trip, if not THE best. And can't you just taste this by looking at picture???

Well-seasoned travelers. 7:50pm





Quite the fine dining experience. Don't remember what we had, but the thing with the "heart" is fish

Day #3, 14 March 2015. Ordinarily this is our day to adjust to the new time and sleep in until about 10a, but we had a 9a appointment to visit the *Remember Museum 39-45* nearby. It would have been tragic to miss that. Here is La Wadaleux where we spent the night run by Joëlle & Patrick. He was chef, she did the rest.



A round wooden table is set for a continental breakfast. On the table, there are two white plates, each with a glass of orange juice. A white plate holds a croissant and two powdered donuts. A small white tray contains cold cuts, cheese, and butter. There are also salt and pepper shakers, a sugar dispenser, and a glass of water with a lemon wedge. The table is surrounded by dark chairs.

**Typical European continental
breakfast: cold cuts, cereal, cheese,
juice, coffee, and breads akin to
hockey pucks.**

Le Wadeleux

HOSTELLERIE

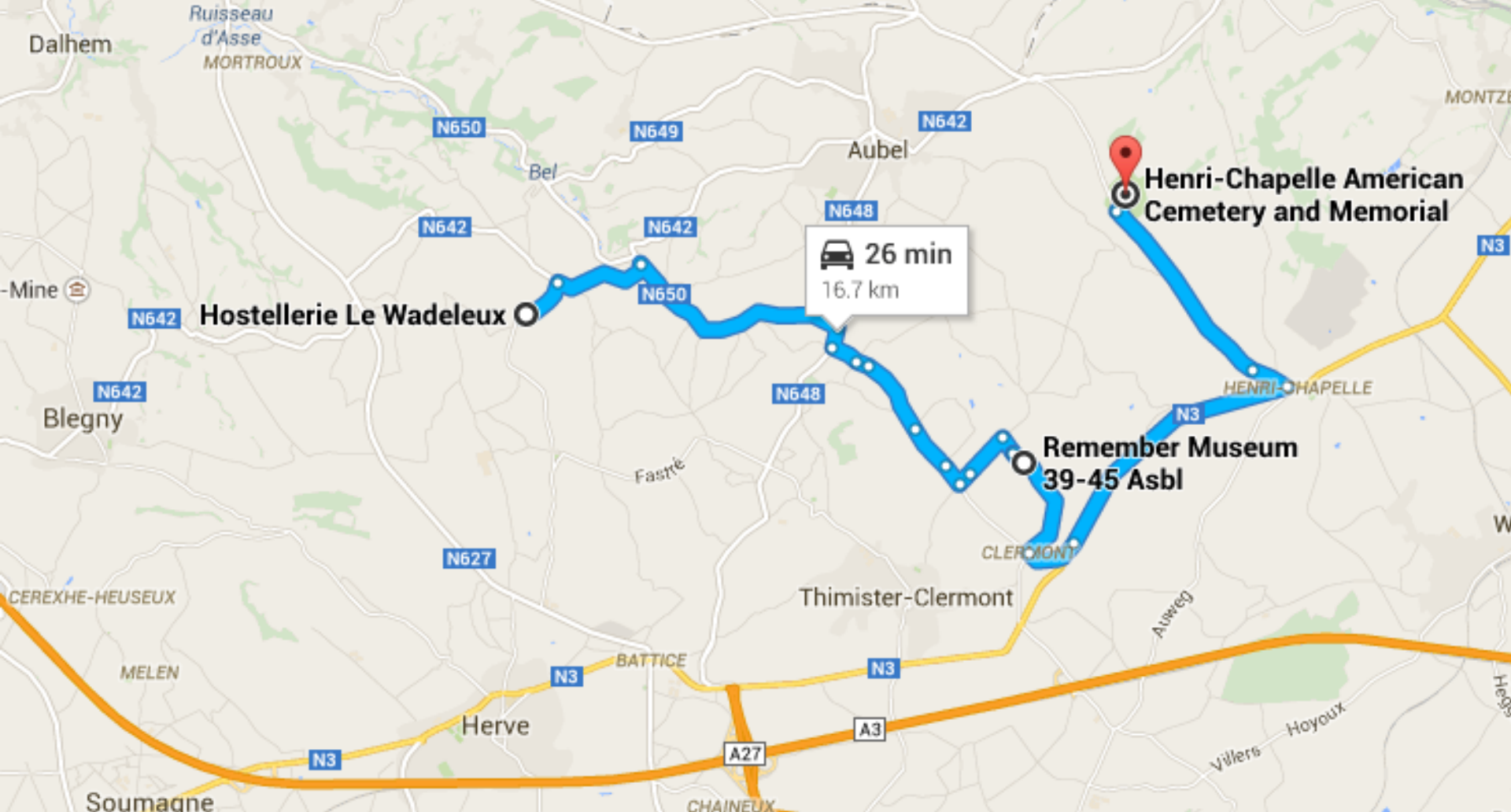


Patrick & Joëlle

vous souhaitent la Bienvenue !

- ★ Restaurant : menu à choix à base de produits locaux
- ★ Hôtel 6 chambres "Tout confort"
- ★ Espace bien-être : sauna, hammam, jacuzzi
- ★ Vins français de qualité au verre
- ★ Ouvert du vendredi au lundi

www.wadeleux.be 087 78 59 12



Day #3 – Mar 14, 2015 Here’s how our day began. We left Le Wadeux about 8:40a to go to the Remember Museum, and were there from 9a – 1p. Then to Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery & memorial. 10.3 miles.

Our visit to the *Remember Museum 39-45* was definitely a highlight of the trip. How Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz honor the Americans who liberated their area is mind-boggling and humbling. You can only shake your head in amazement at their story. Truly incredible.



REMEMBER
MUSEUM

Marcel Schmetz, now 83, but here 12, remembers the fear and horror of German occupation 1939-45 when he was a small boy. The family farmed nearby and they hid the older teenage brother in a space between 2 walls for a 16-month period to keep him from being taken by the Germans for their army.

Marcel Schmetz - 1945 - 12 ans



After the Allies liberated Belgium, they left many jeeps, trucks and other equipment. Marcel's family used this jeep as a tractor on the farm for many years. He restored it for the museum.



Here is Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz's M & M odds and ends collection that many friends have sent them over the years.



**...and them in
front of it**



To begin the tour you come into M&M's kitchen for coffee and later a Belgian waffle. Note the red-white-blue.

The house dates back to the 1600's. The red brick building was Marcel's auto body shop before he retired in 1994 and started the museum. Marcel had been a confirmed bachelor. In 1990 recently widowed Mathilde was driving in the area with her 3 small children and had a wreck. The insurance company told her to get her car fixed in the area. That's how she met Marcel (age 58) and later married.



This is across the road from the museum. Marcel built this tank. After M&M married, he showed her his collection of WW2 stuff and she convinced him this all needed to be displayed and the story told of how the Americans liberated their area. A museum was born in 1994.



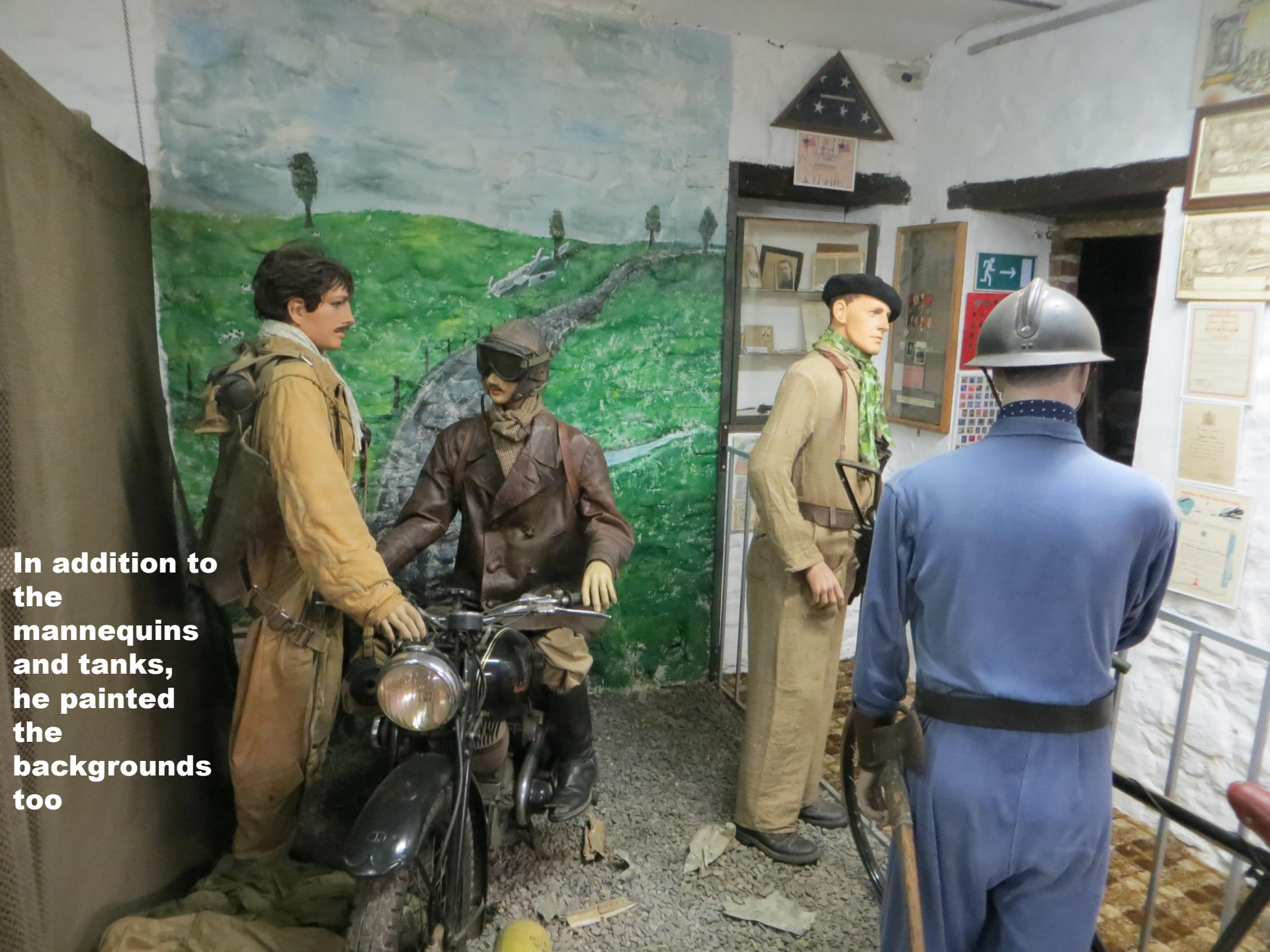


Hanging above is a plywood model Marcel made of the German V-1 “Buzz” bomb. So named by Londoners because of their sound. Only 20% of them came near their intended targets.



The many displays required mannequins to show scenes from the day. Too expensive to buy – Marcel made them all.

In addition to the mannequins and tanks, he painted the backgrounds too





Mathilde does a great job leading the tour. Here she explains some guy had 3 WW2 vintage German cars. If Marcel restored them, he could have one. Here it is.

They keep up with many former soldiers, wives and families.

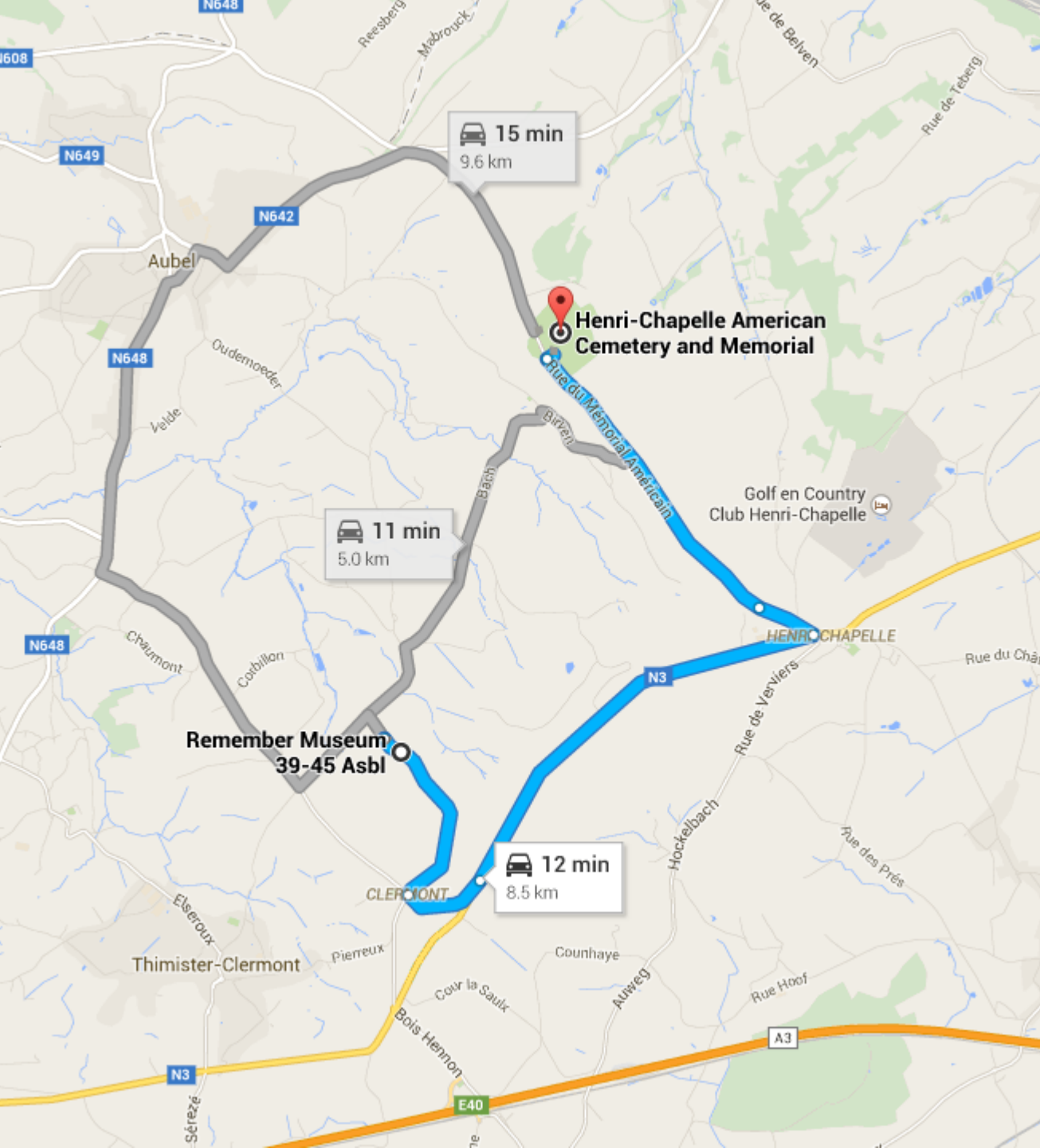




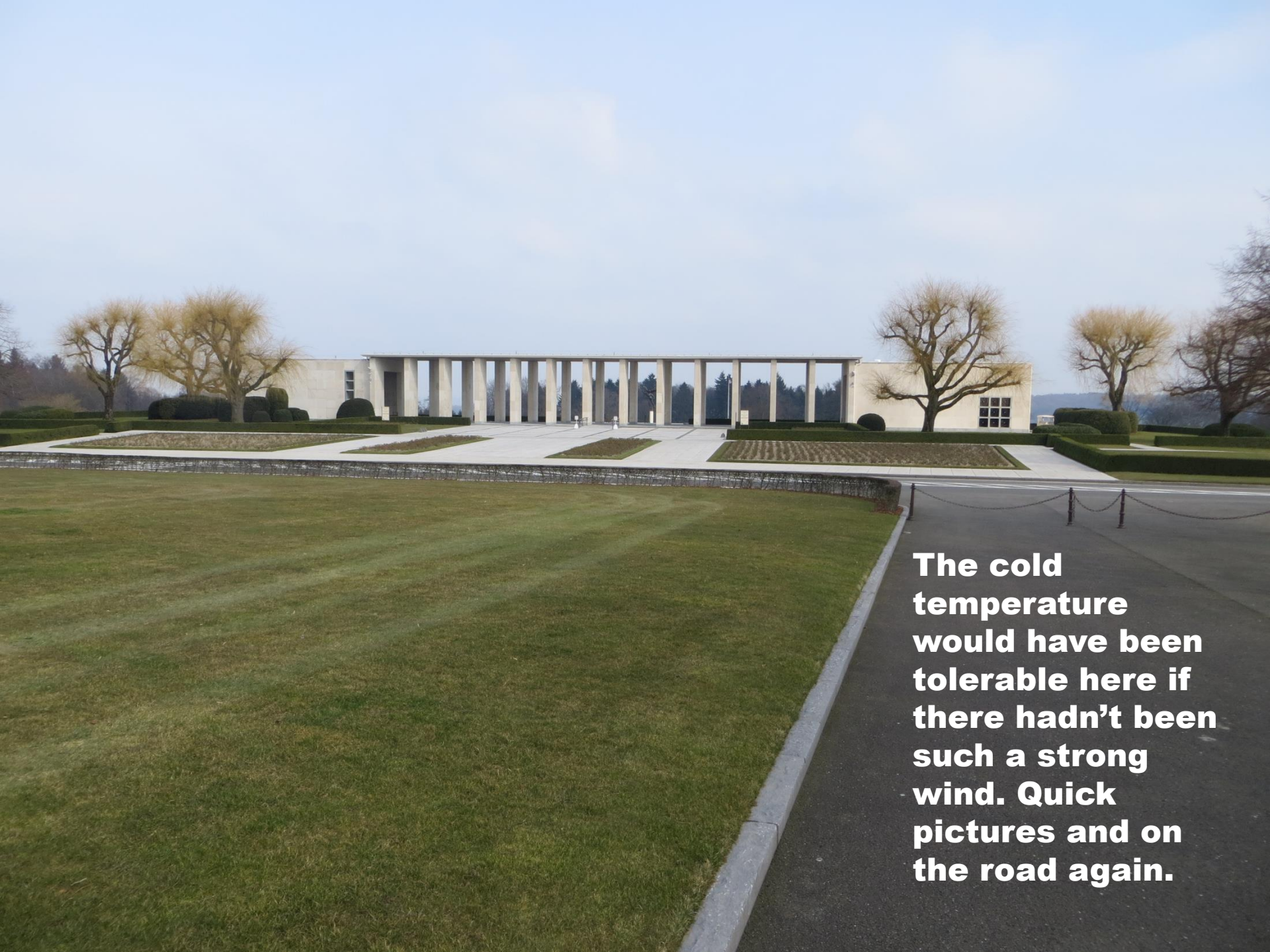
**So much stuff. Unbelievable.
Don't know who will continue
museum when they're gone.**



Sitting where many WW2 vets have sat and had their picture taken. Mathilde insisted we end the tour with a Belgian waffle.



A short distance from the Remember Museum was the Henri-Chapelle Cemetery and Memorial. Mathilde said there were 17,300 buried there, but the trusty internet says 7,992.



The cold temperature would have been tolerable here if there hadn't been such a strong wind. Quick pictures and on the road again.



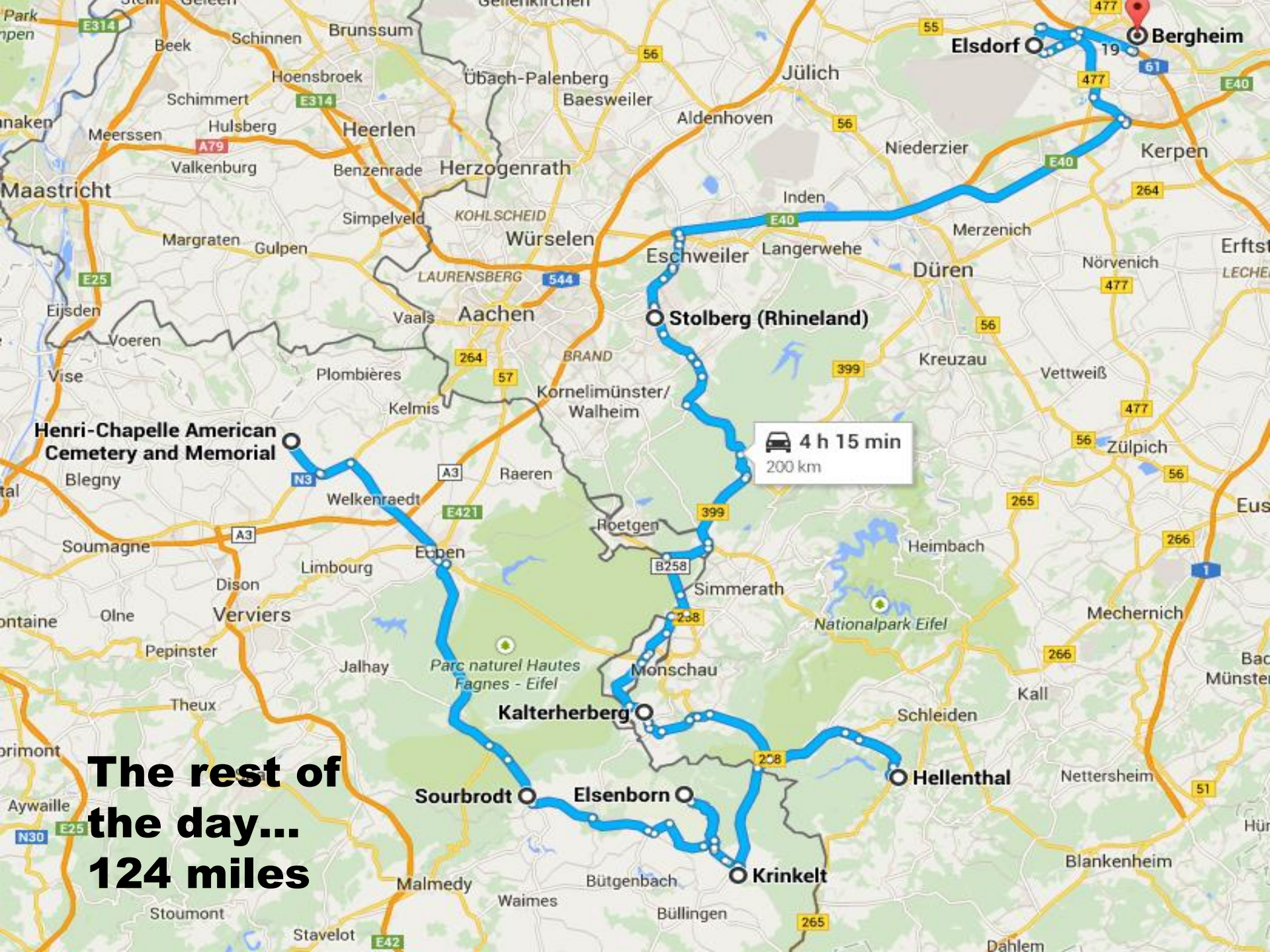
HENRI CHAPELLE
AMERICAN CEMETERY
AND
MEMORIAL











Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial

Stolberg (Rhineland)

4 h 15 min
200 km

The rest of the day...
124 miles



**Guess the Garmin was steering us correctly.
Major highways - and rough, unkept, tiny
logging roads like this one**







Sourbrodt, Belgium was the first of a series of towns on this leg of the trip. 2:19pm

**40-mm anti-aircraft
gun at snow-covered
Sourbrodt during war**





Soubrodt ○ ○ **Elsenborn**

🚗 50 min
25.9 km

**Camp Elsenborn,
Belgium, was an
important place in
WW2. Many troops
went to or through
here. 2:26pm**

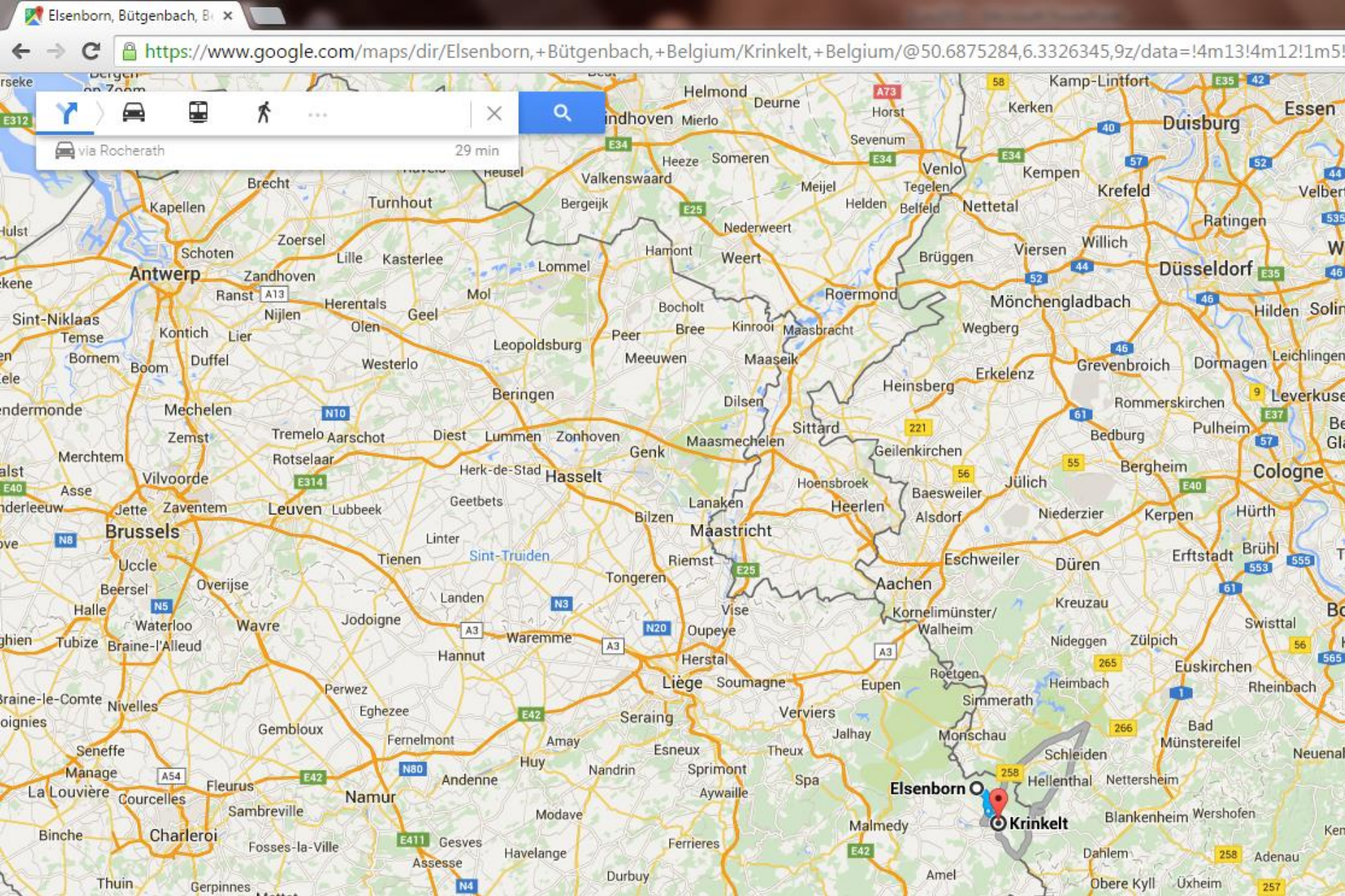


STOP ACCES NOCTURNE AU CAMP
GRILLE FERMEE =
1. ETEINDRE MOTEUR
2. FELX DE POSITION
3. SONNER A LA GRILLE
4. S'IDENTIFIER
NÄCHTLICHER ZUGANG ZUM LAGER
GESCHLOSSENES TOR = 1. MOTOR ABSTELLEN
2. STANDLICHT
3. AM TOR SCHELLEN
4. SICH IDENTIFIZIEREN



ACHTUNG
ATTENTION
OPGELET





On to Krinkelt

2:49 pm

Krinkelt
Büllingen

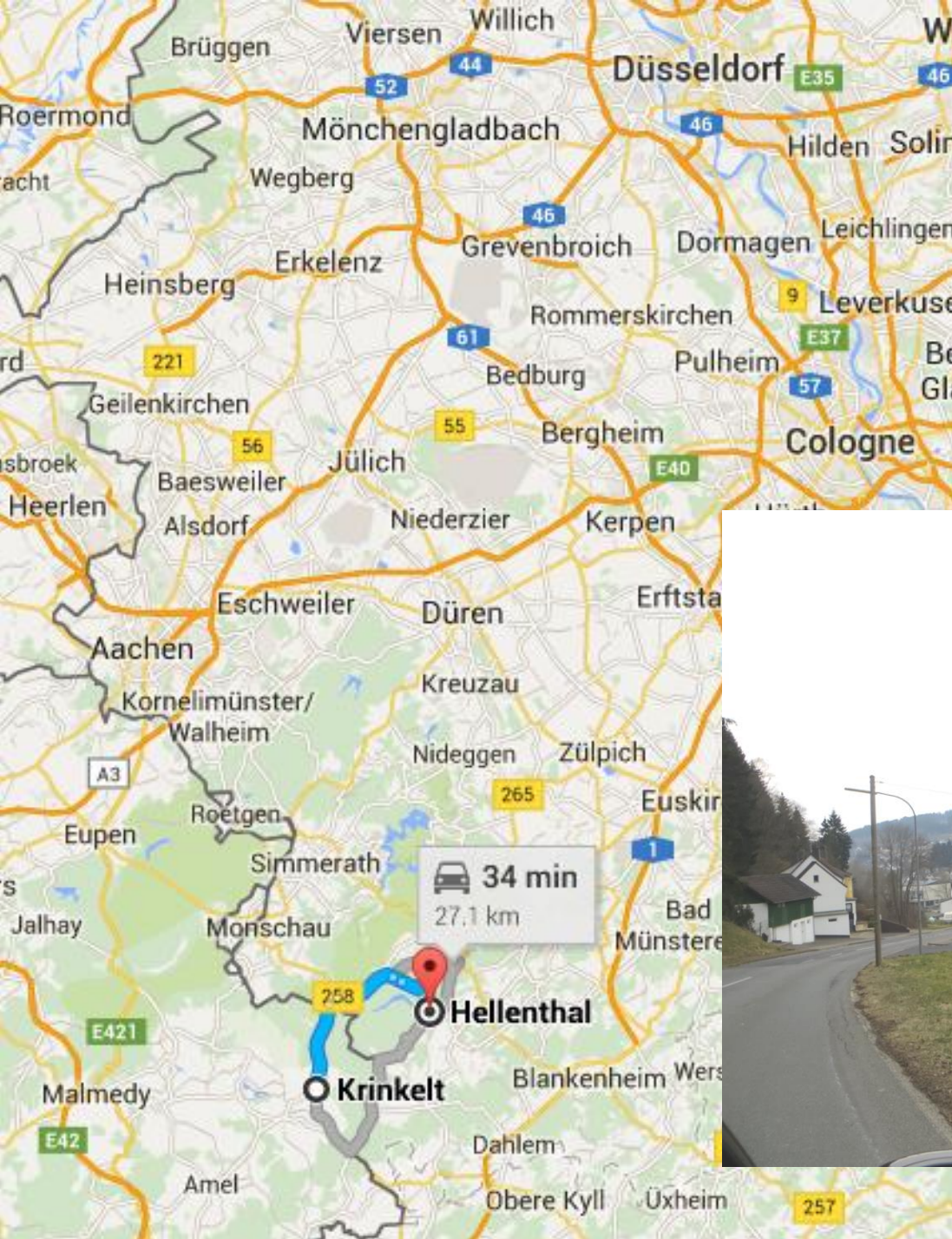


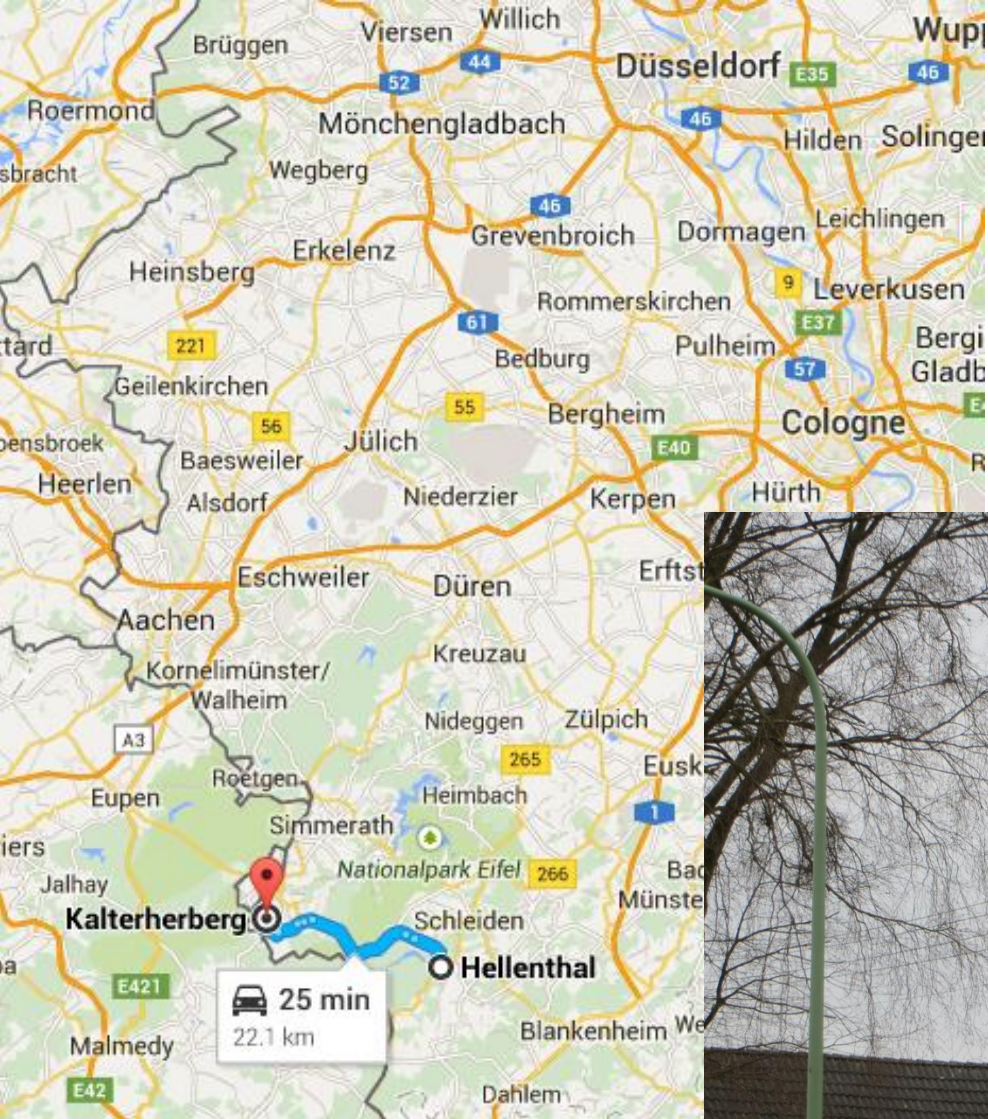
The 99th Infantry Division was a unit of the United States Army in World War II. It played a strategic role in the Battle of the Bulge when its inexperienced troops held fast on the northern shoulder of the German advance, refusing them access to the vital northern road network that led into Belgium. (Thanks Wikipedia) Monument in Krinkelt. 2:57pm

**Across the street from
Krinkelt monument**



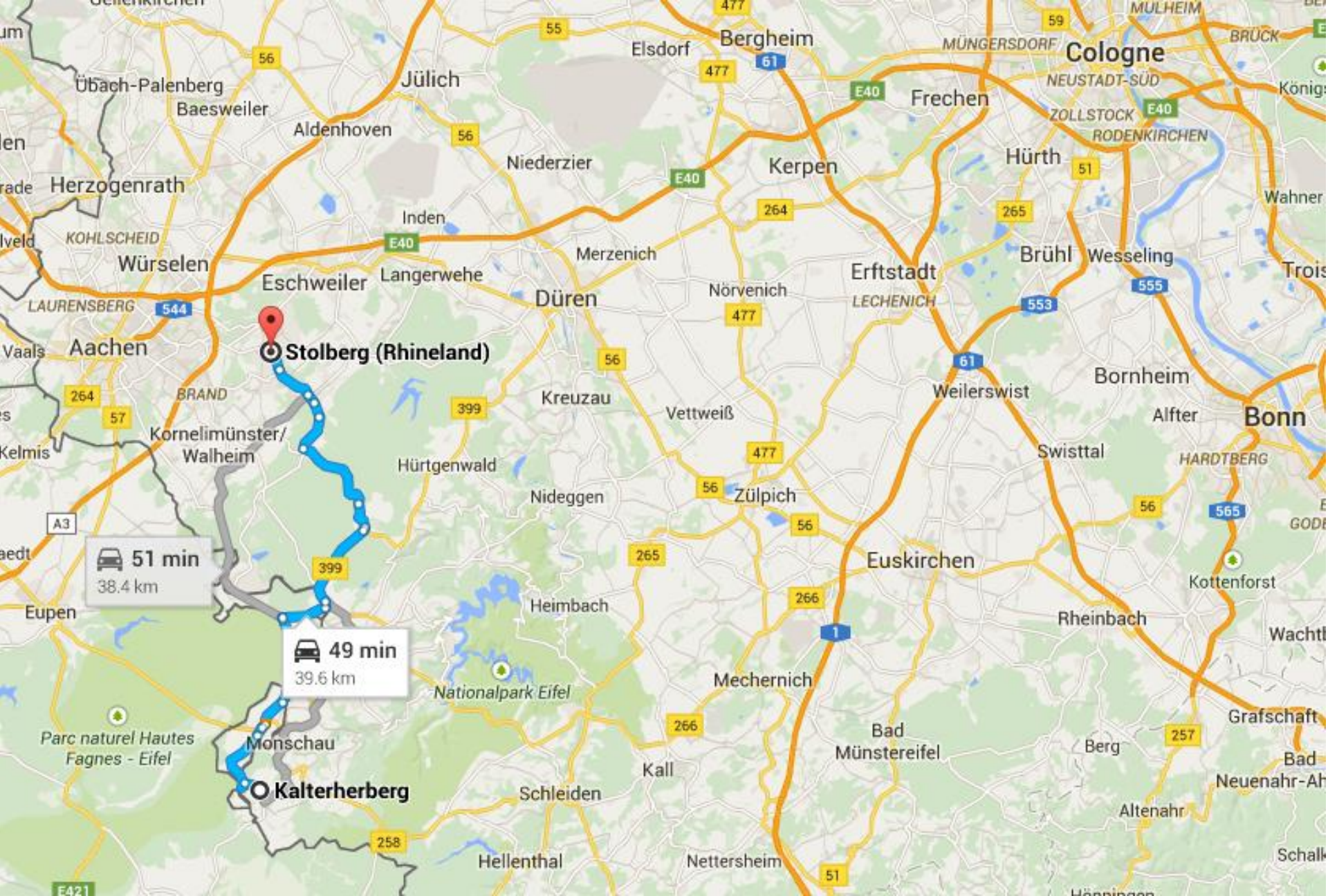
**On now to
Hellenthal, our first
town in Germany.
3:20pm**






**Almost overlooked
Kalterherberg on the list.
Had to swing back just a few
miles. Cmon navigator!!
3:46pm**





Stolberg (Rhineland)

 **51 min**
38.4 km

 **49 min**
39.6 km

Kalterherberg

**Somewhere between
Kalterherberg and Stolberg
we stopped at this roadside
park for a brief “nature
hike” and photo op. Also
grabbed a sandwich at a
grocery store in some town
with music playing out
front. 4:01pm**



**Not the greatest sign of Stolberg... Stopped here for Ed's nap and Rob's coffee and "wee-fee" at McDonalds for email catch-up.
5:08pm**

**Stolberg (Rheinl.)
Altstadt**

Handwritten graffiti in blue ink, possibly reading "dwm".



By the time we left Stolberg it was pushing 6pm and getting dark and drizzly. Started discussing where we might land for the night. By the time we reached Elsdorf we had decided to make it a little farther to Bergheim for the night. While 135 miles today was far below our daily average, got to consider that 4 hours of the day were at the Remember Museum.

Stadt
Elsdorf
Rhein-Erft-Kreis

H200
1.8
11.4

Our
car
7:08
pm





This photo of a magazine at our Bergheim hotel would have to suffice as our town sign. 7:42pm



We rolled into Bergheim about 7:40pm and found the Parkhotel with the Slovonja Restaurant connected. Had a good meal, strong wee-fee for the ipads and iphones, and plenty good German pilsner beer. It was about 8:30p when we sat down to eat. We were the last ones to leave about 11p. Ready to sleep.



Kroatische
und
Internation.
Spezialitäten

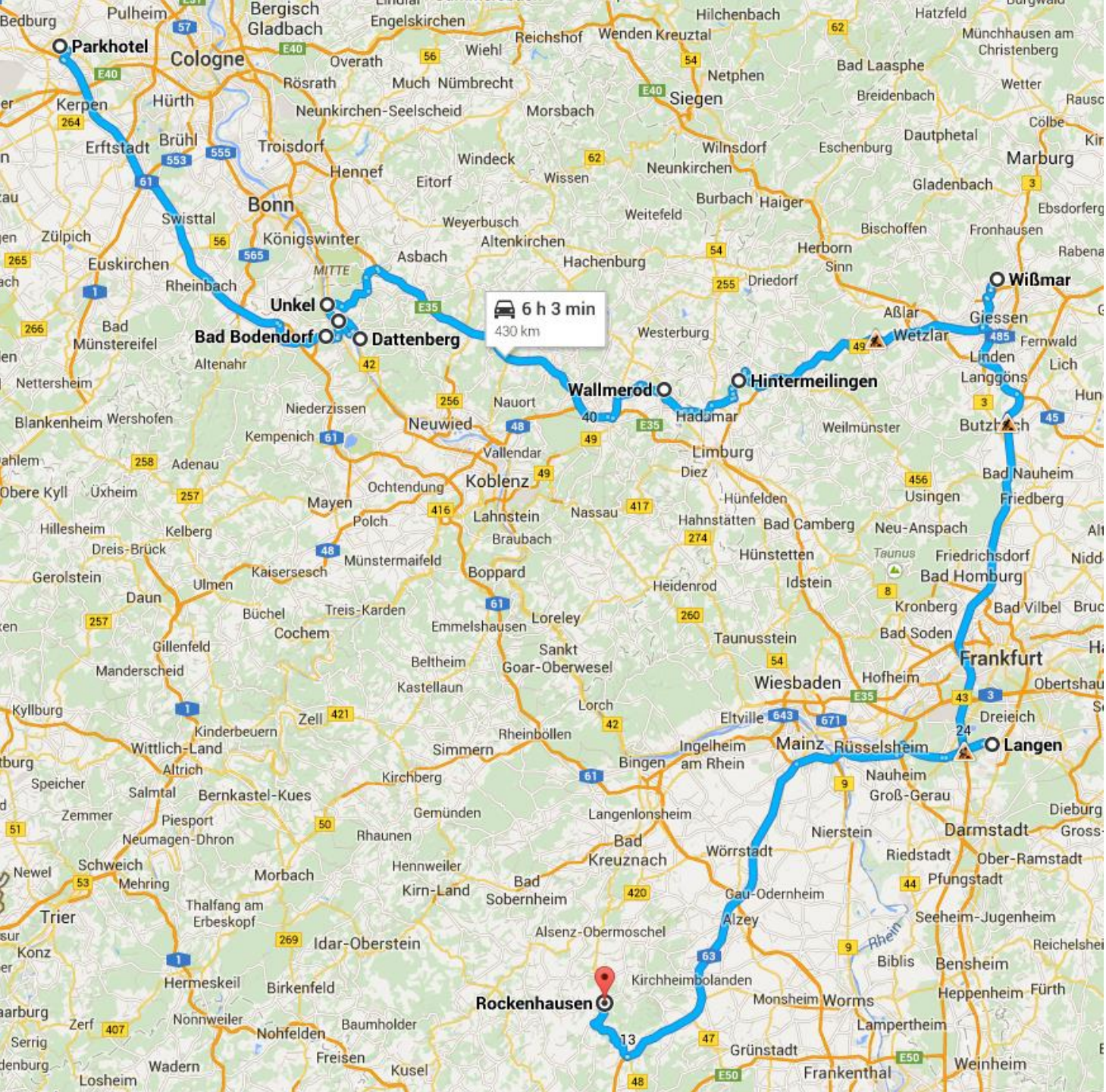
RESTAURANT
Slavonija

Freuen Sie sich
auf Ihre Frühstück
in unserem
Büfettisch

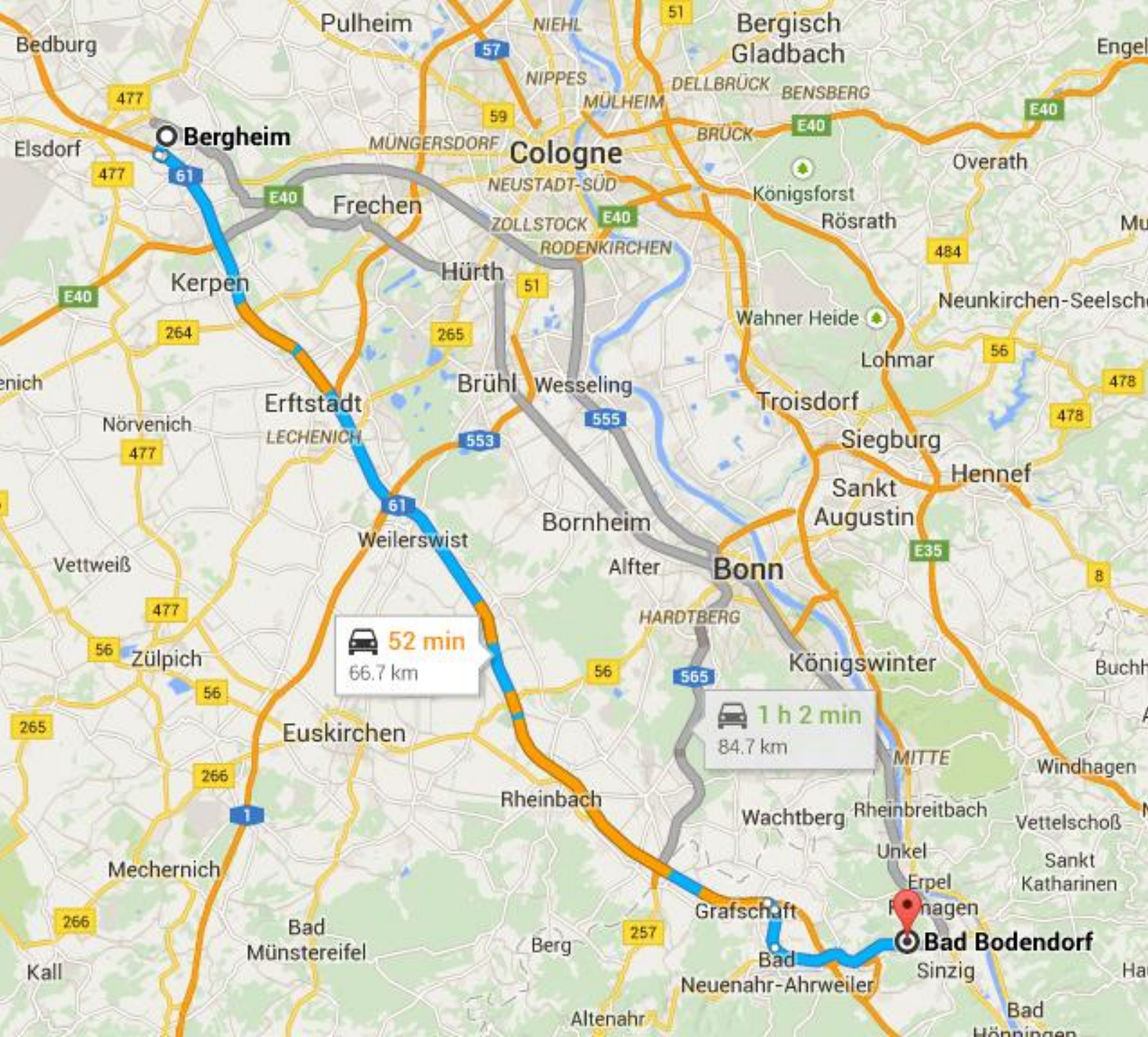
Sion **Parkhotel** Sion

HOTEL

**Day #4, 15 March
2015. After the
typical breakfast, we
left about 8:30a.**



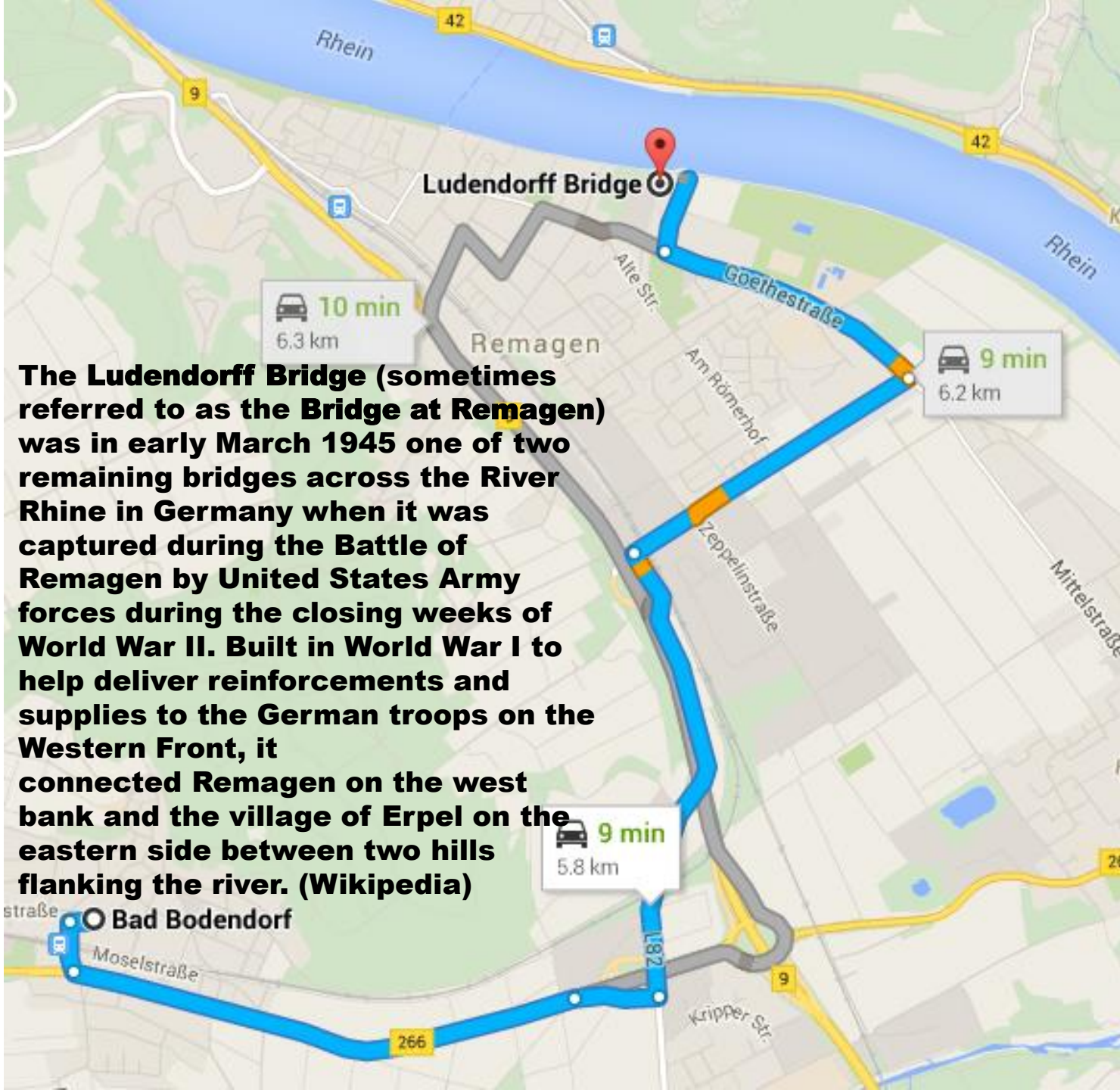
This is just Part “A” of today’s trip. 430km = 267 miles.



Today's first leg. We listened to a Rick Steves podcast about beer around the world and proper toasting etiquette

**First town
of the day
at 9:41 am.**





The Ludendorff Bridge (sometimes referred to as the Bridge at Remagen) was in early March 1945 one of two remaining bridges across the River Rhine in Germany when it was captured during the Battle of Remagen by United States Army forces during the closing weeks of World War II. Built in World War I to help deliver reinforcements and supplies to the German troops on the Western Front, it connected Remagen on the west bank and the village of Erpel on the eastern side between two hills flanking the river. (Wikipedia)

Remagen
Stadtmitte



**Our next town,
Remagen to see what
remains of the famous
bridge. 9:53am**

The bridge in its day





FRIEDENSMUSEUM
Brücke von Remagen



Informational plaque on the stone wall.

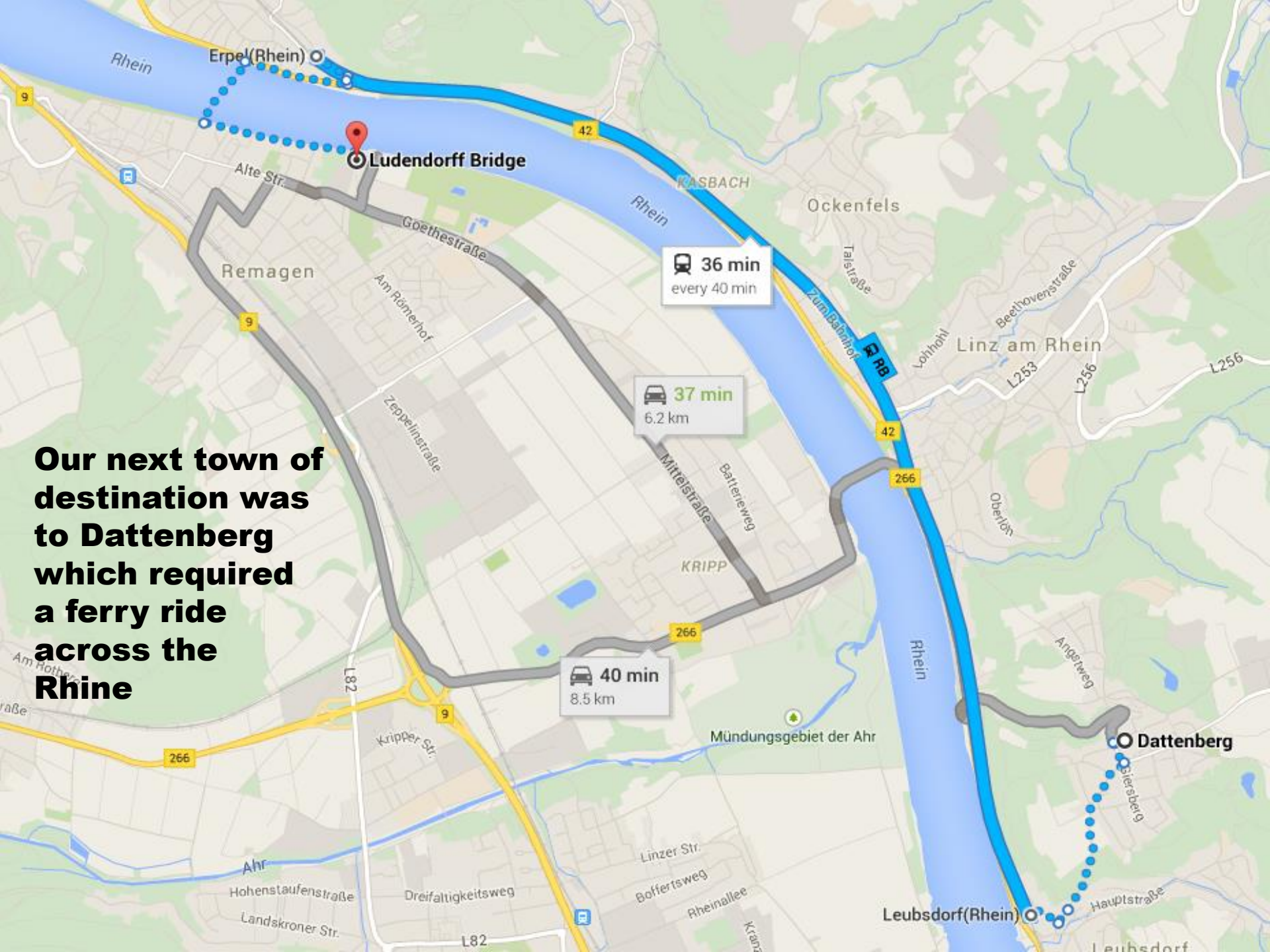
Small informational plaque on the stone wall.

Small informational plaque on the stone wall.



At the end of Operation Lumberjack (March 1-7, 1945), the troops of the American 1st Army approached Remagen and were surprised to find that the bridge was still standing. Its capture enabled the U.S. Army to establish a bridgehead on the eastern side of the Rhine. After the U.S. forces captured the bridge, Germany tried to destroy it multiple times until it collapsed on March 17, 1945, ten days after it was captured, killing 18 U.S. Army Engineers. While it stood, the bridge enabled the U.S. Army to deploy 25,000 troops, six Army divisions, with many tanks, artillery pieces and trucks, across the Rhine. It was never rebuilt. The towers on the west bank were converted into a museum and the towers on the east bank are a performing art space.

Our next town of destination was to Dattenberg which required a ferry ride across the Rhine







10:28am

10:37am

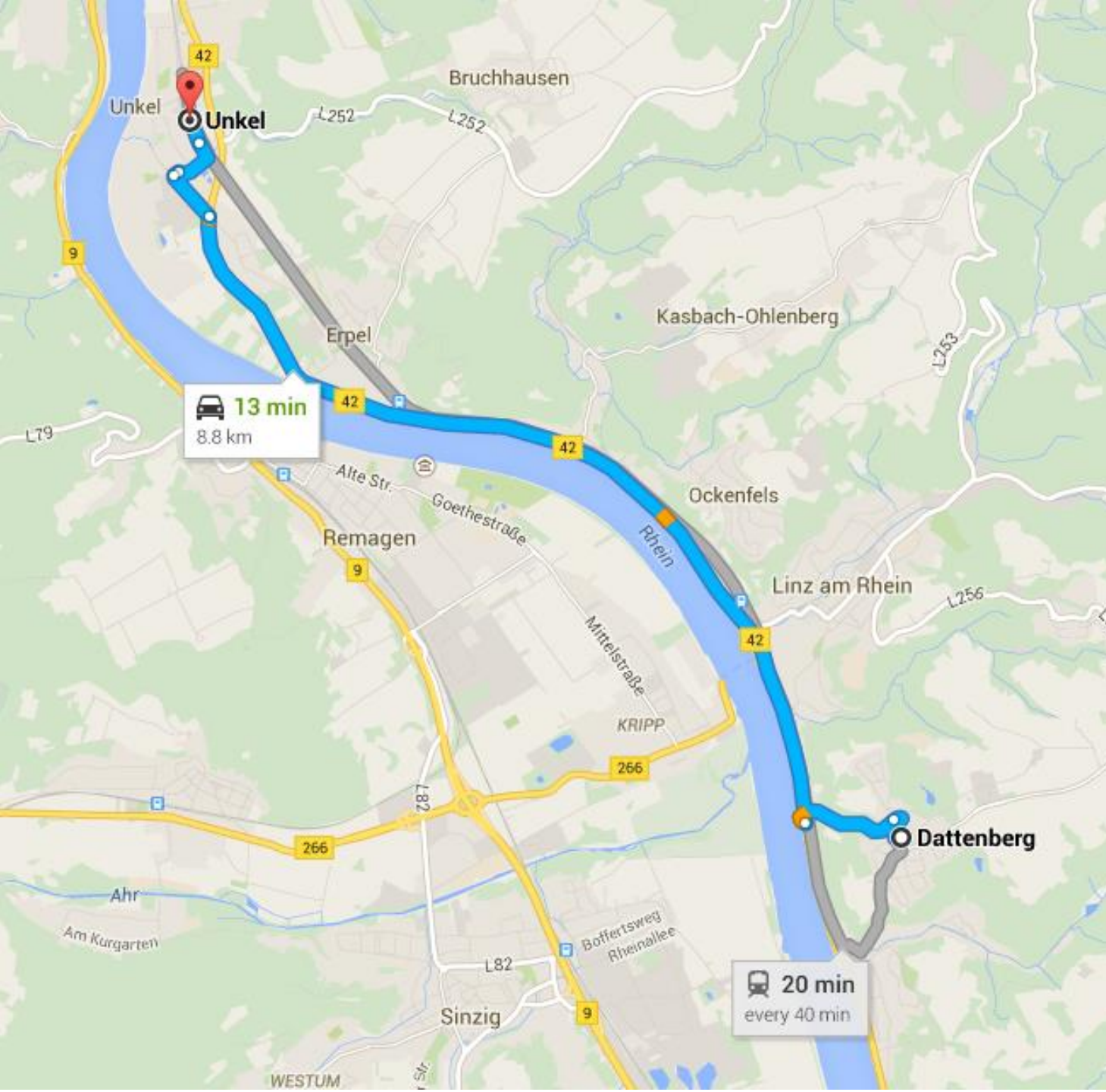


Dattenberg
Kreis Neuwied

100

Dattenberg

Next to Unkel



**The west side of Ludendorff Bridge from
the east side**





**Heading north along
east side of the Rhine**

**Stopped here for
petro 10:50am**

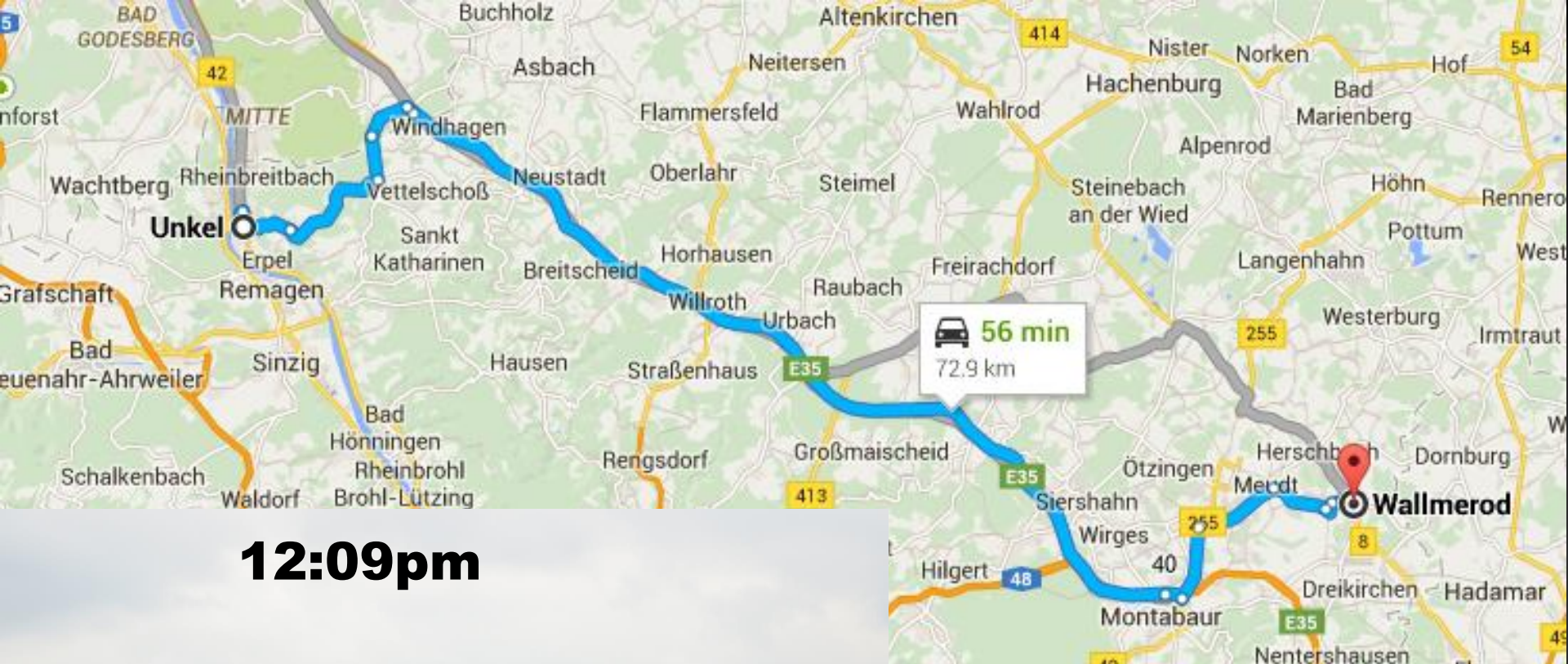


Anlieger
frei

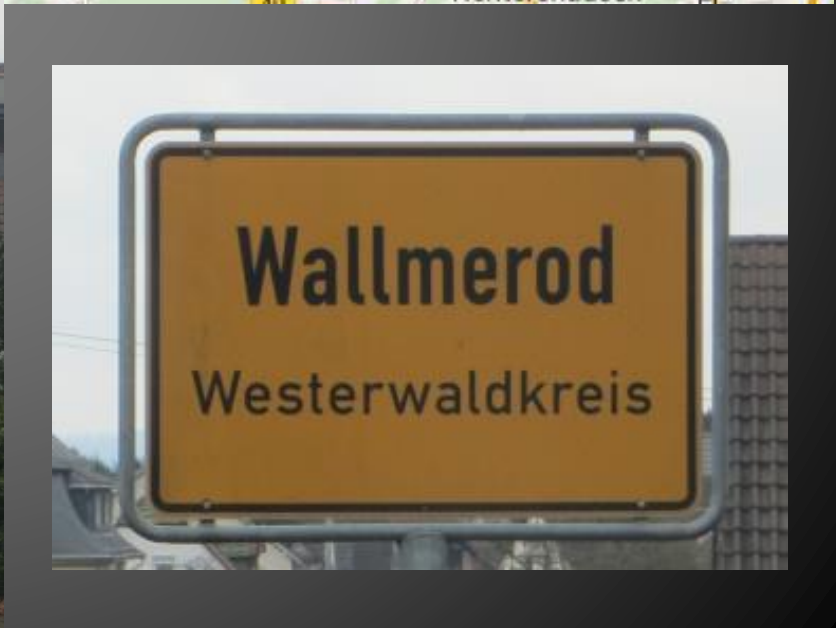
Unkel
Stadtteil Heister
Kreis Neuwied



ausgenommen
ausgewiesene
Parkflächen



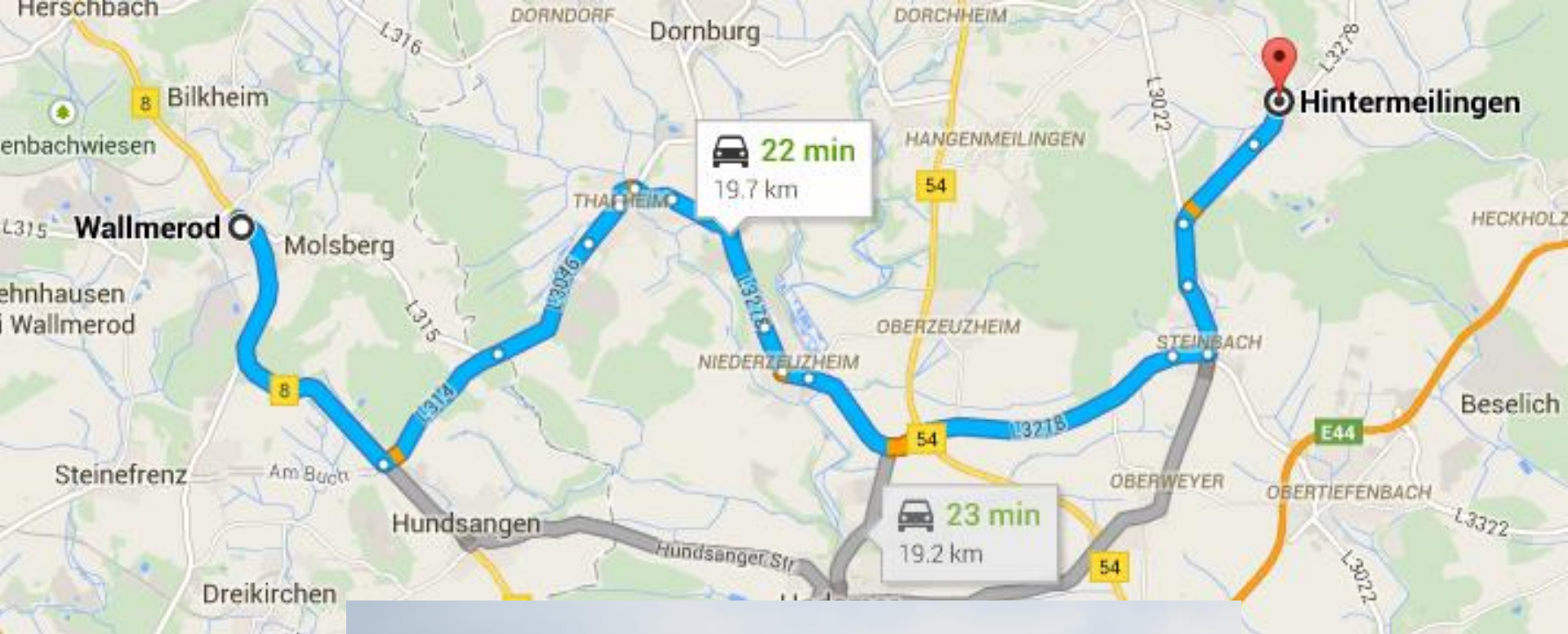
12:09pm



Somewhere in the early afternoon we stopped at this place and had a ham and onion pizza (each) for lunch. Fairly crowded with groups of people... families... maybe eating after church, I dunno... Near us were two elderly gentlemen. We guessed them to be widowers and maybe getting together weekly for Sunday lunch and beer.

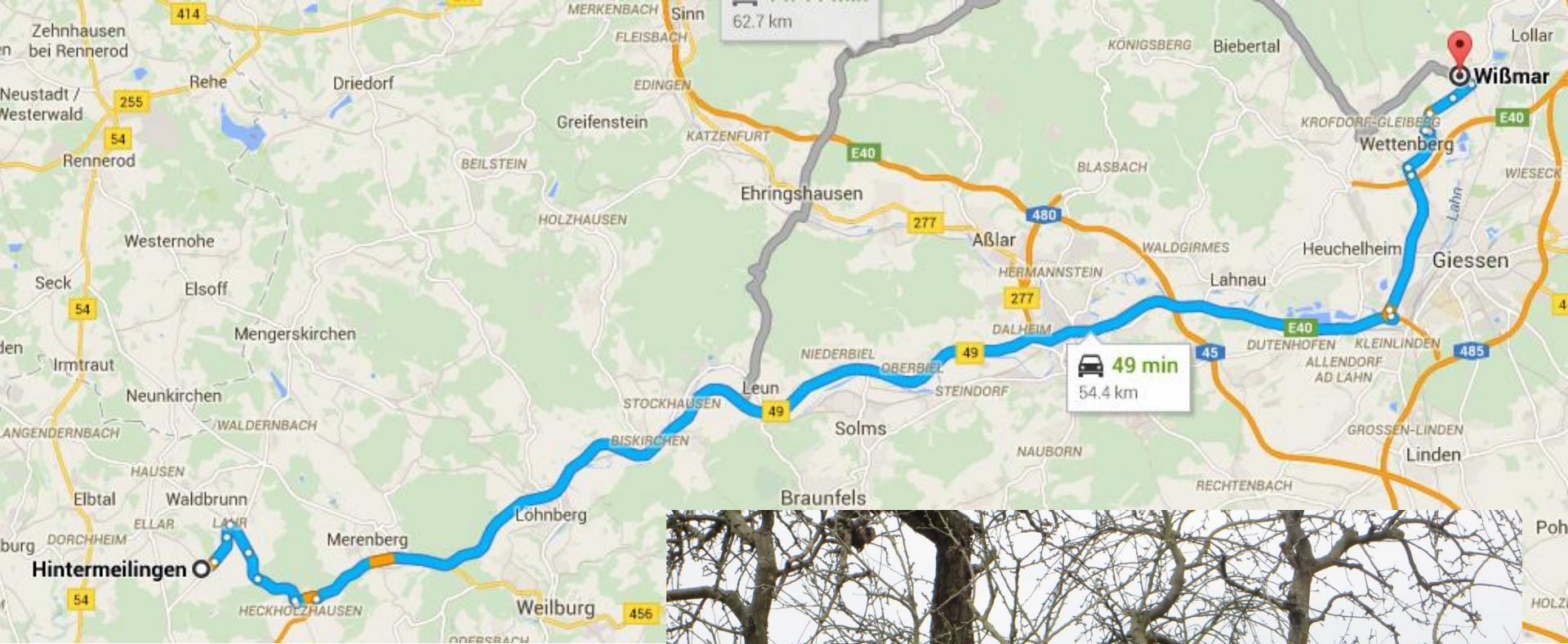


03/15/2015



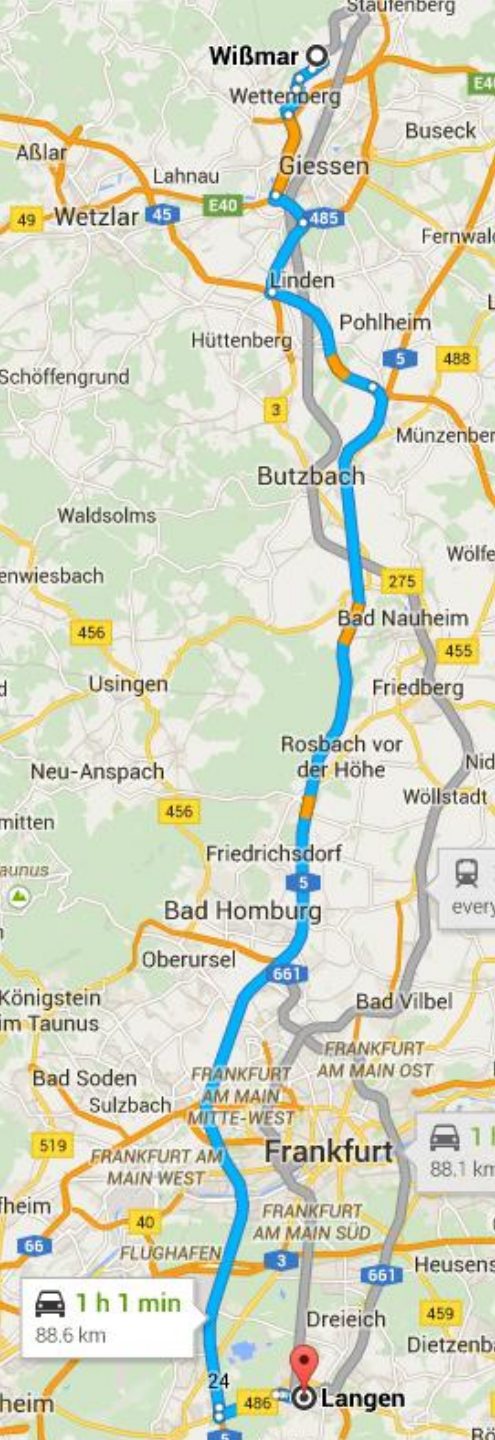
1:49pm



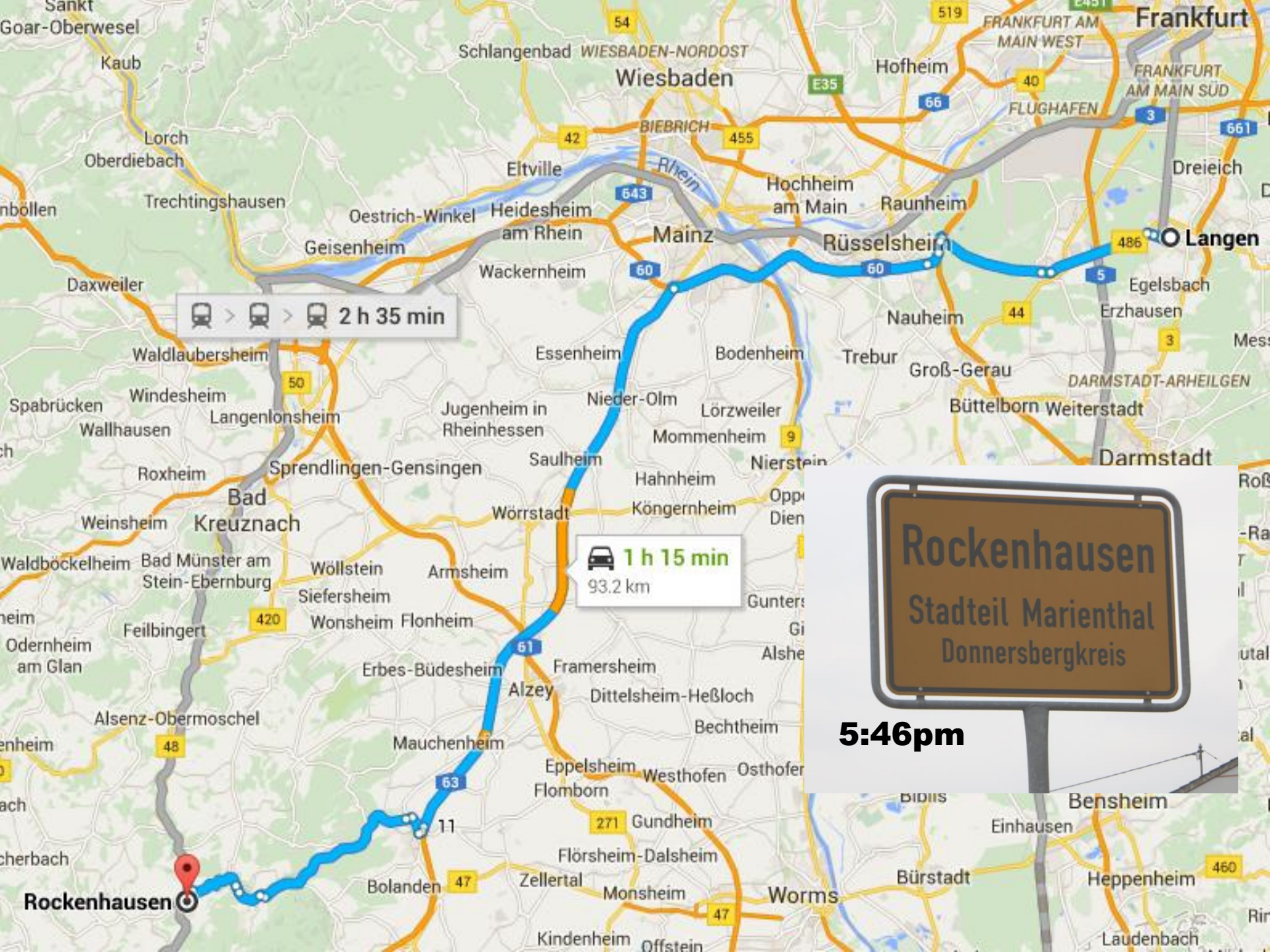


2:39pm





4:35pm Sometime before we went through/around Frankfurt, we pulled off the road for a nap. Was cloudy then, but the sun came out later.

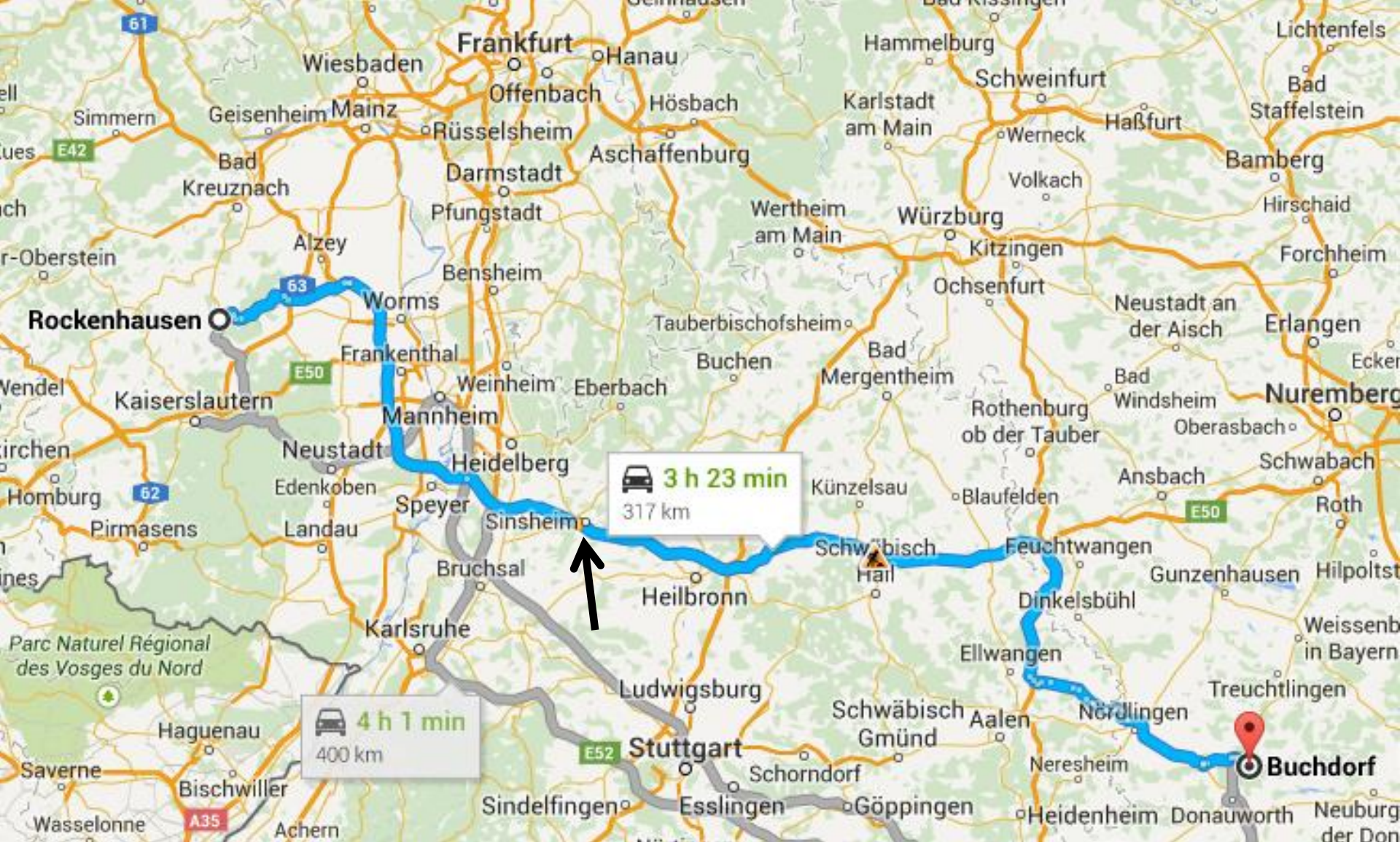


2 h 35 min

1 h 15 min
93.2 km

Rockenhausen
Stadteil Marienthal
Donnersbergkreis

5:46pm



We were getting tired by the time we got to Rockenhausen at 5:46p. Perhaps our goal to Buchdorf was a bit over optimistic since it was 203 miles, much of which was rural curves and hills. Kept going until Sinsheim (see arrow) where we decided to hang it up for the night.



From Rockenhausen to Sinsheim for the night. Grand total of 345 miles today.



Checked into Rathausgasse in Sinsheim about 7:30p. After dropping stuff in the room, we came down to the restaurant for a good meal and included a great cup of stew as appetizer. More importantly were these 22 oz. pilsners we earned after a long, full day on the road. 7:54pm

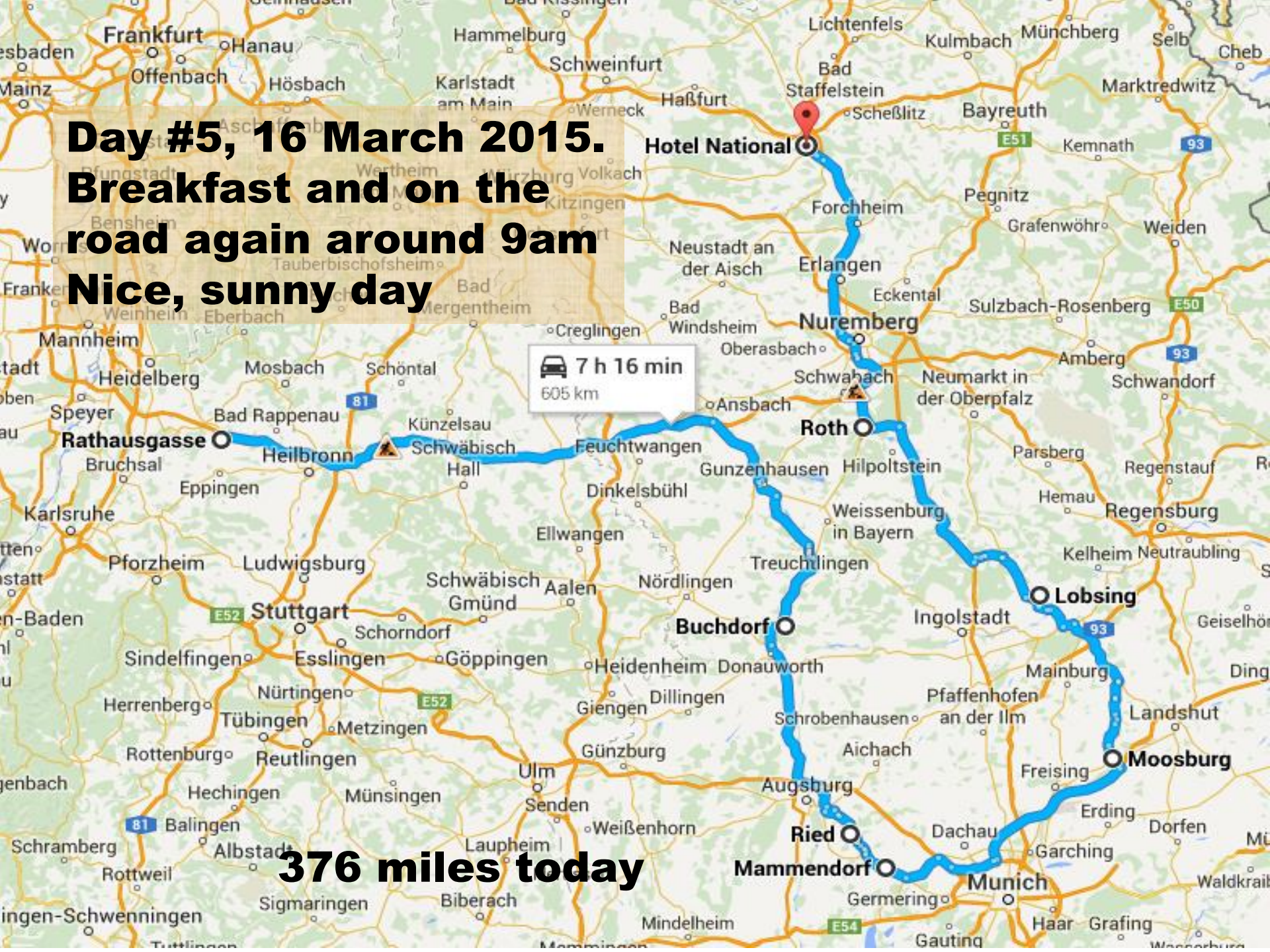
**Night cap about
9:30pm**

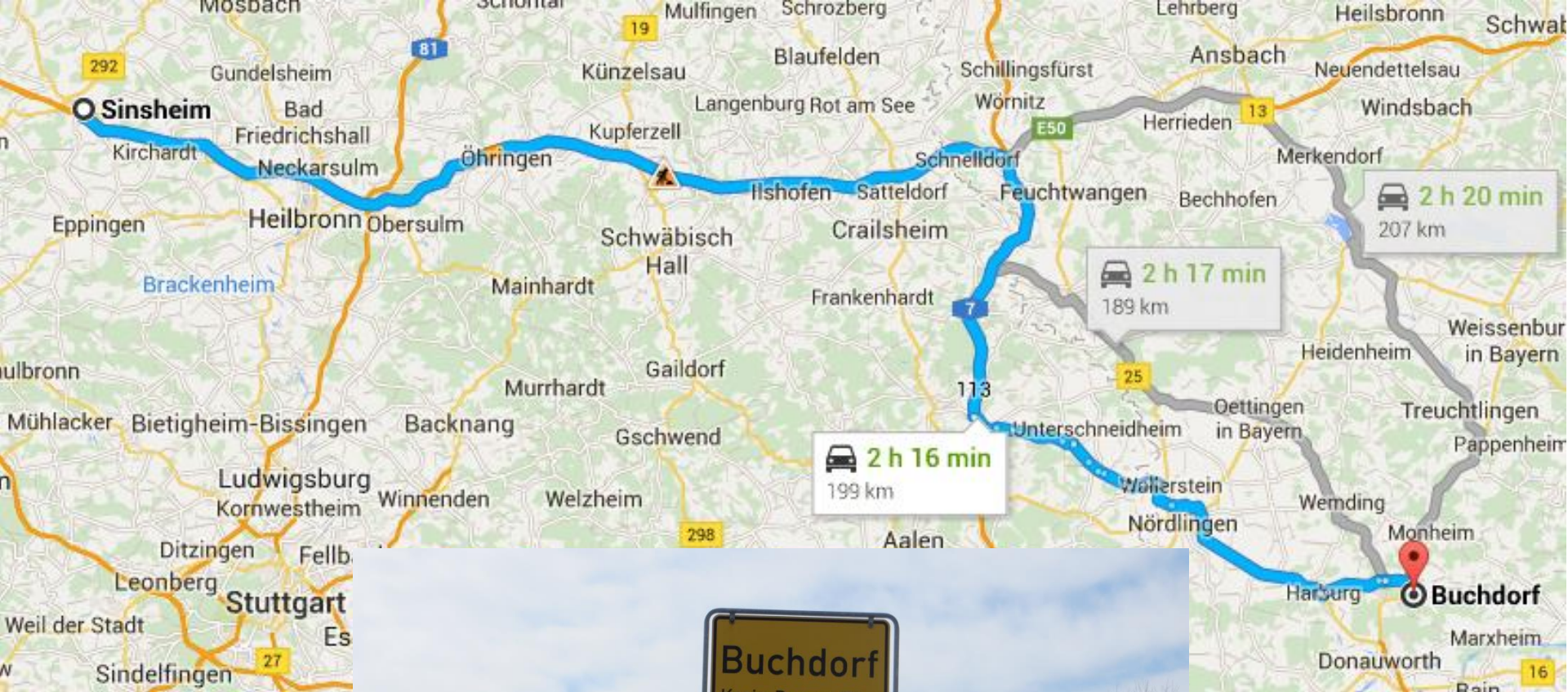


Day #5, 16 March 2015.
Breakfast and on the
road again around 9am
Nice, sunny day

 **7 h 16 min**
605 km

376 miles today

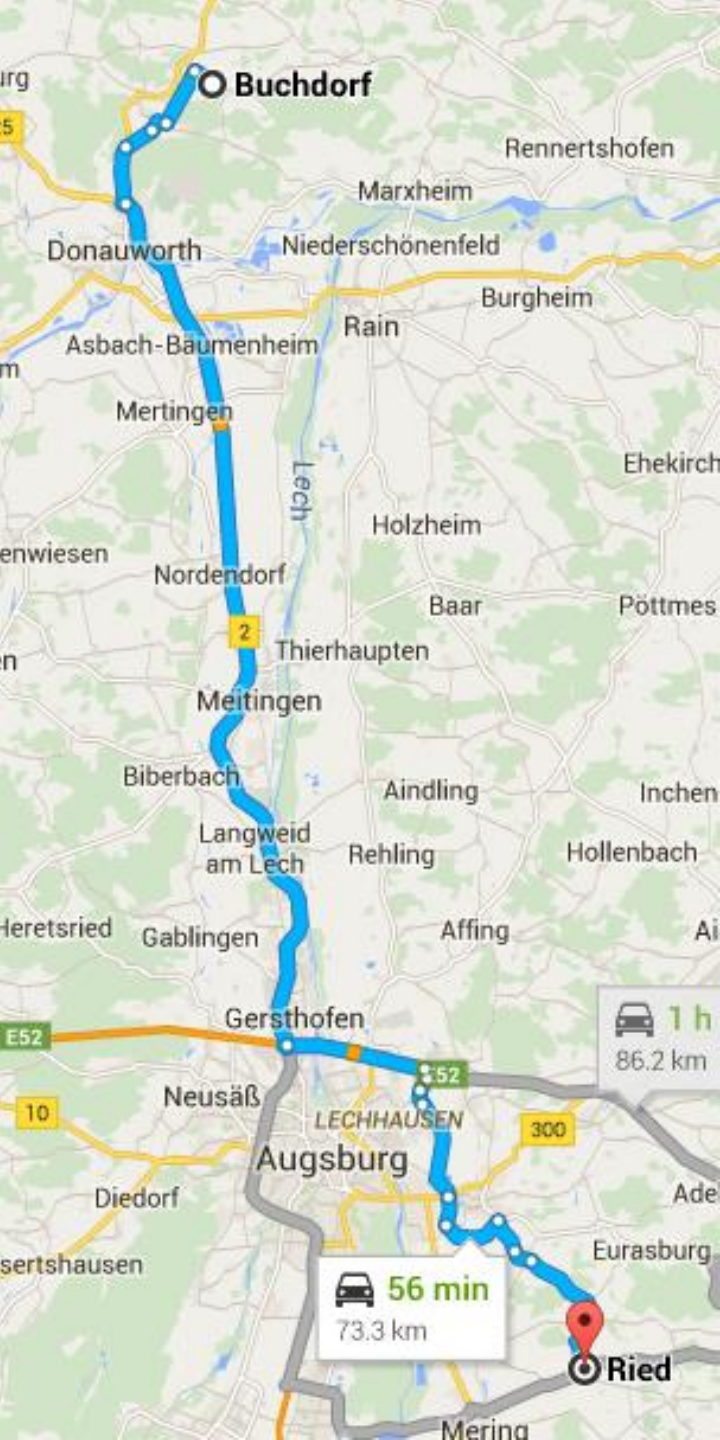




Quite a bit of this leg was interstate (autobahn)

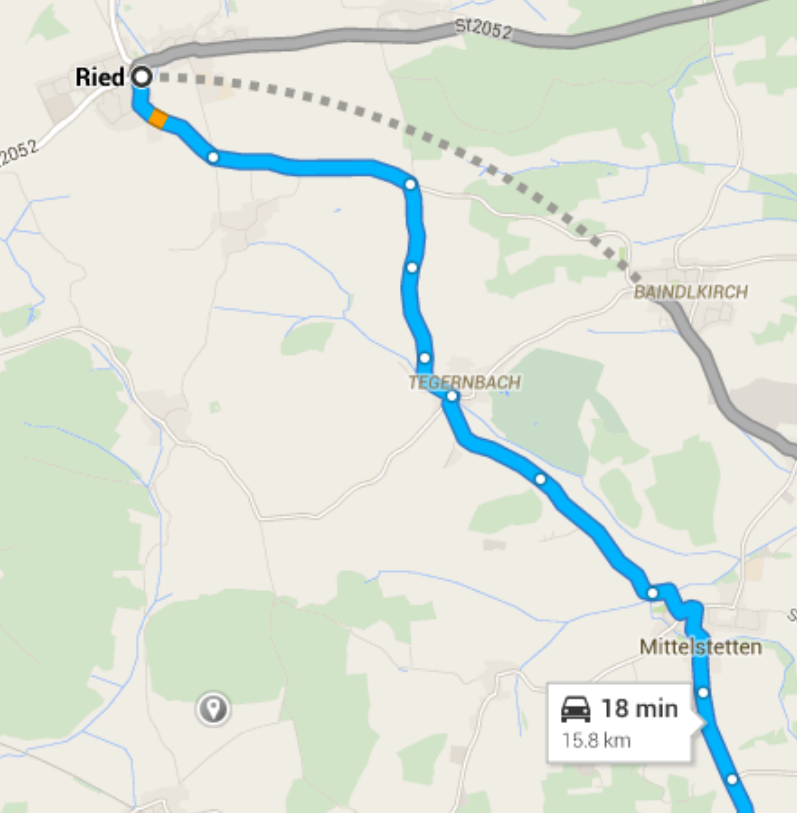


Buchdorf at 12:31p



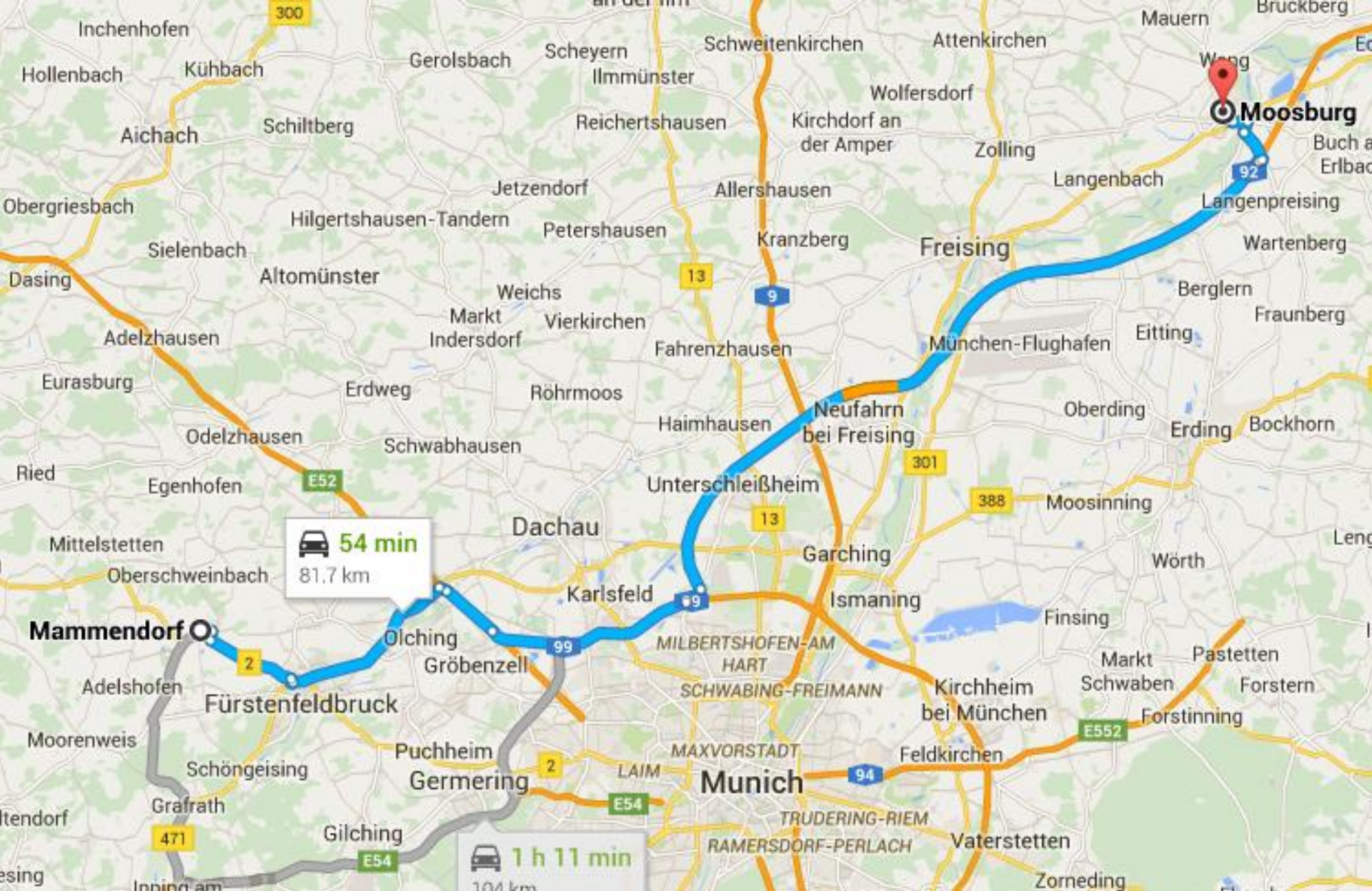
**Shortly after Ried, we stopped for gas in... I believe it was Mittelstetten.
Then up the street to this Edeka grocery store for a chips & sandwich
lunch. 1:18p**





2:42p





A brief temptation came over us to head into Munich for old-times-sake, to one of the many awesome beer gardens... but I suppose it was wise to “stay the course.”

Moosburg
Kreis Freising

3:38pm

A beautiful, but typical small Bavarian town





Heading N NW out of Moosburg, we saw acres of land that had this strange setup. 4:01pm





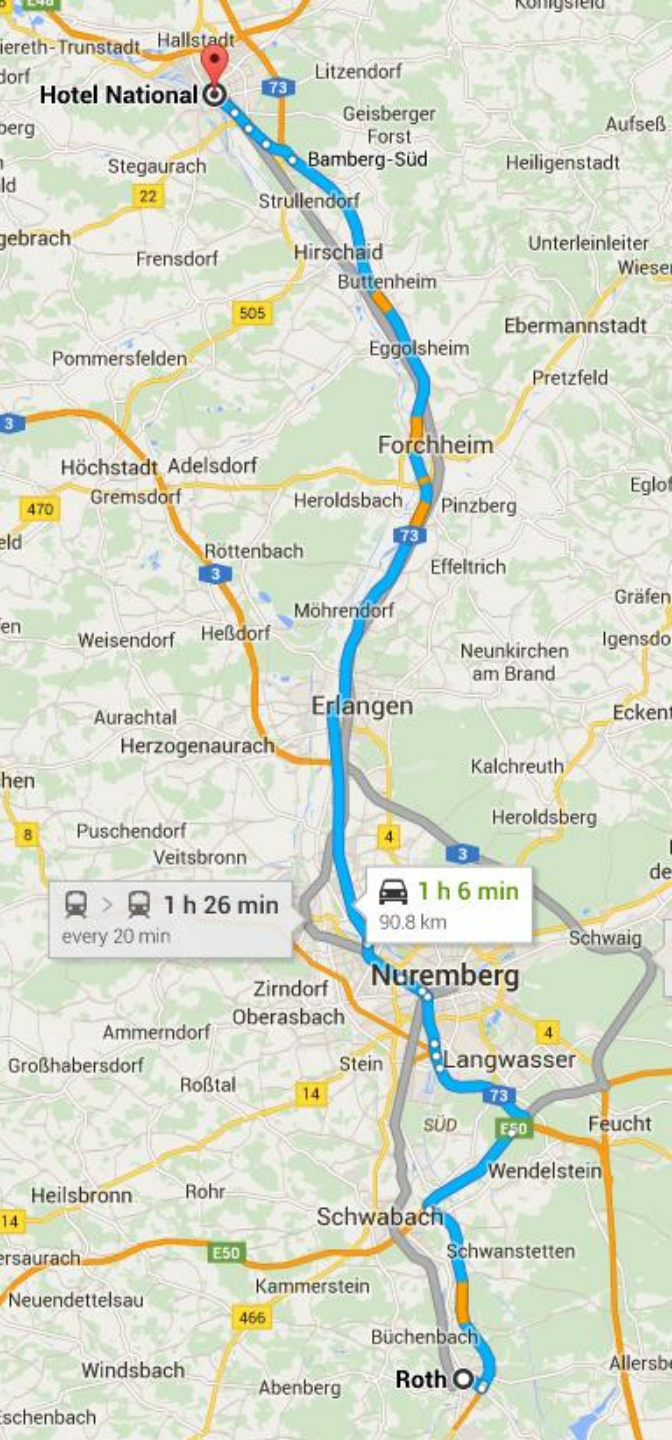
Guys picking stuff off the wires in one of these fields. A guy that Rob worked with – born in Germany – said they are for growing beer hops. Keep up the good work!! 4:53pm



5:15pm

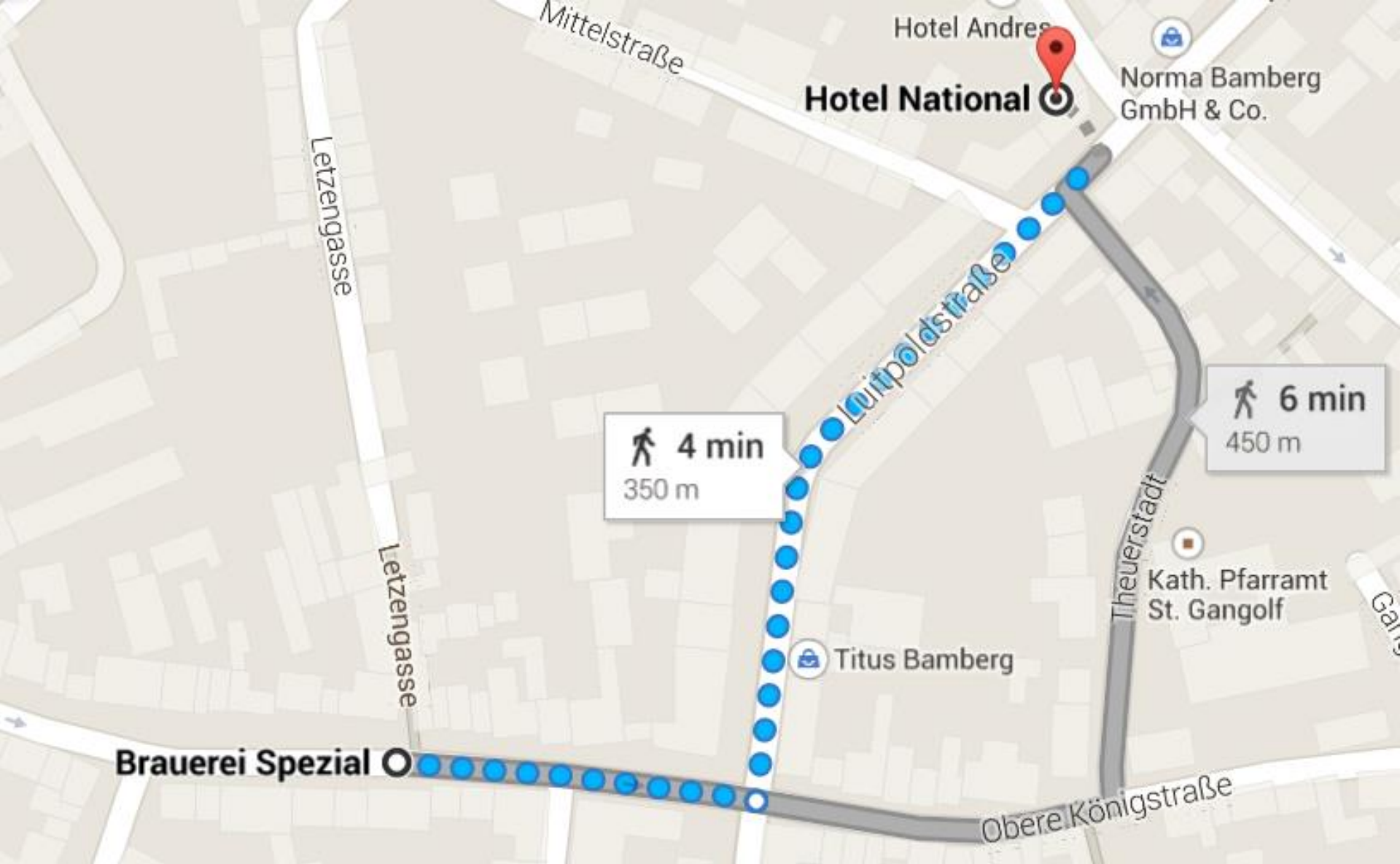


The original plan was to stop by and see Ottmar Then & family in Fürth, just north of Nuremberg. That didn't pan out because of their declining health. We pulled over at a McDonalds in Roth shortly after this town sign, tapped into "wee-fee" then ultimately decided to get farther than Nuremberg... like a fairly major town of Bamberg which is close to the next town on the itinerary. Good choice to stay there as the next several towns were too small to offer lodging.



After checking out a couple of other possibilities, we found the Hotel National in downtown Bamberg. Nice and spacious room up on the 4th floor. Had to park on Mittelstraße just around the corner from the hotel, but needed to be gone by 8a. That was ok since we had some miles to cover the next day. Had to find food & beer. Hotel clerk recommended Brauerei Spezial a short walk away. Good call.





It was cold that night, so I bet we got there faster than 4 minutes.



Took this magnificent shot of their craft brew at 8:24pm. This beer had a smoky flavor that wasn't half bad... in fact, it was pretty good. May have had something to do with the fact that we were very road-weary by this time. Oh yea, we bought the mugs, our only real souvenir of the trip. Made it back with them in one piece too.

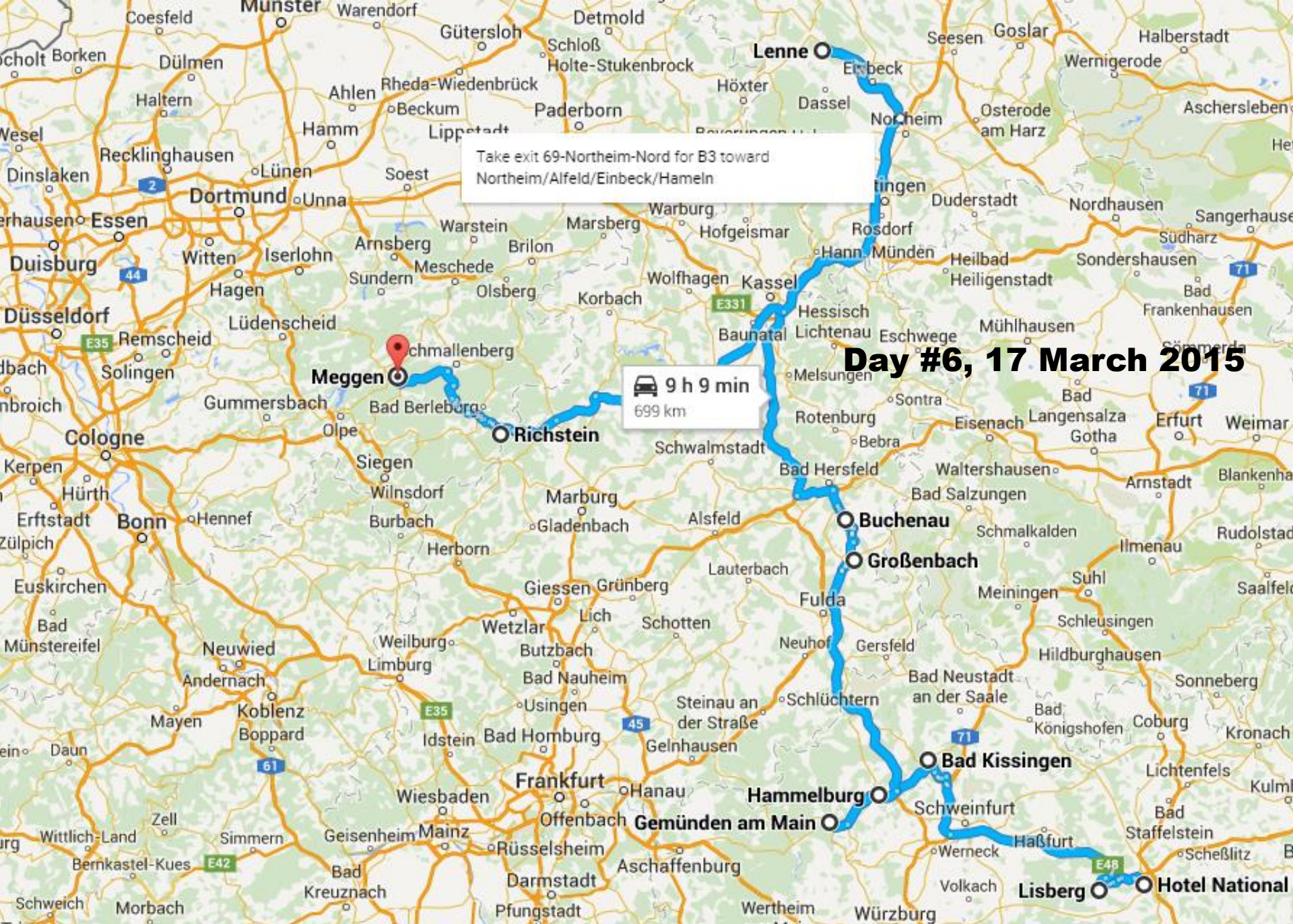


This delicious meal was wiener schnitzel (fried veal cutlet), and of course kartoffelsalat (German potato salad). 8:49pm



*Herzlich willkommen im
Brauerei-Gasthof "Spezial"
Wir freuen uns über Ihren Besuch
Familie Merz*

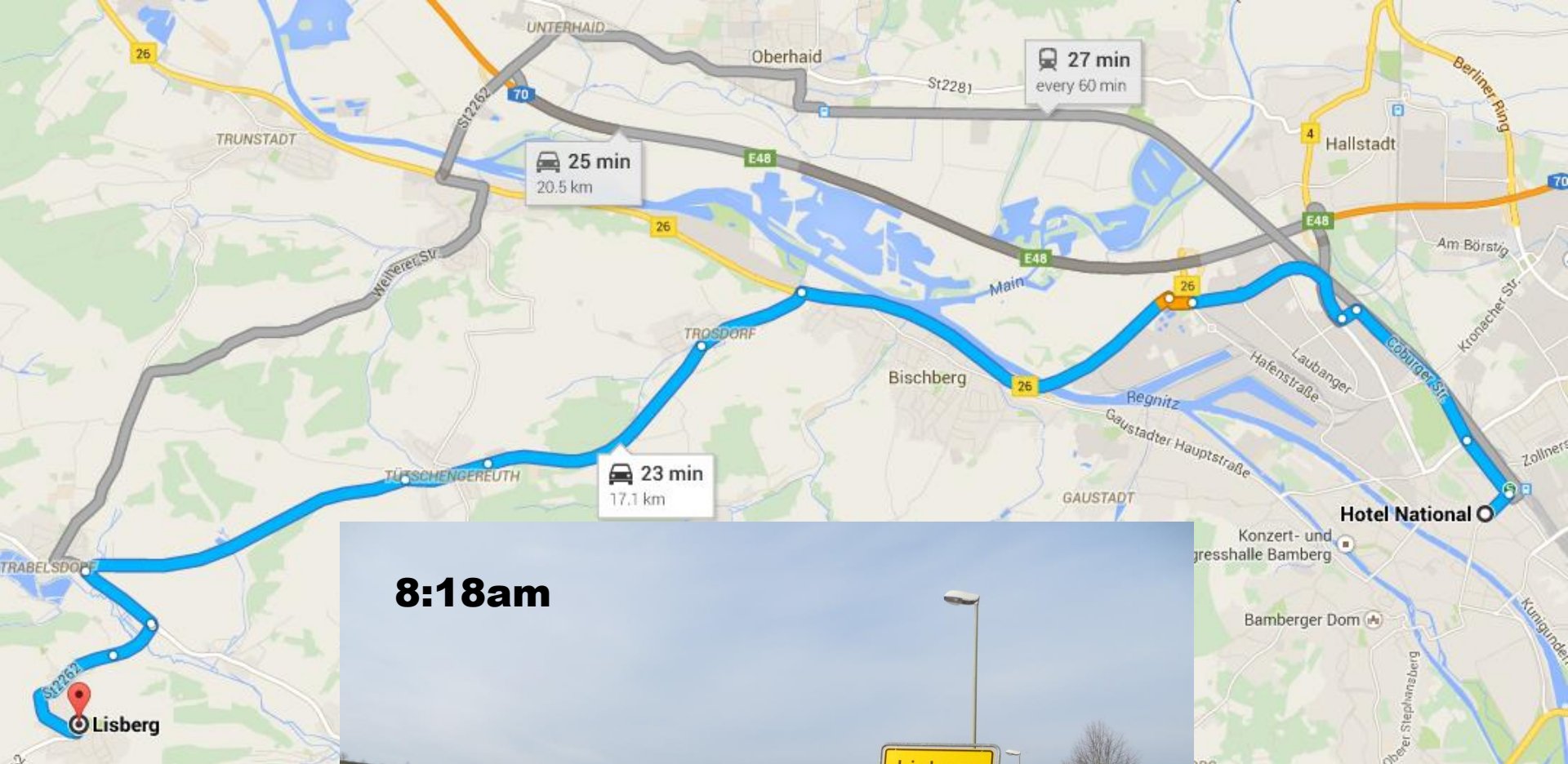
Their napkins



Part "A" of today's trip was 434 miles.

View from our bathroom window at 7:23am. Typical European breakfast fare served in a very modern dining hall.





8:18am



Left Hotel National a few minutes before 8a



9:42am







10:11 am

Willkommen
in
Großenbach

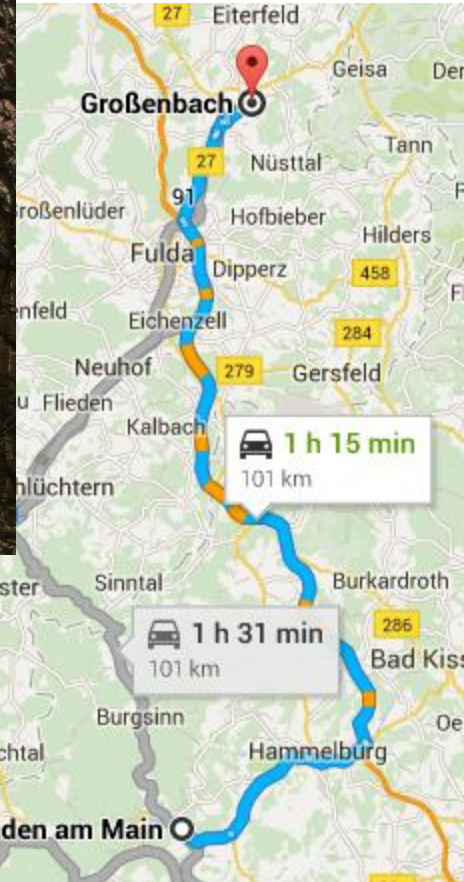


11:23am

11:24am



One of the few times we actually had to back-track some

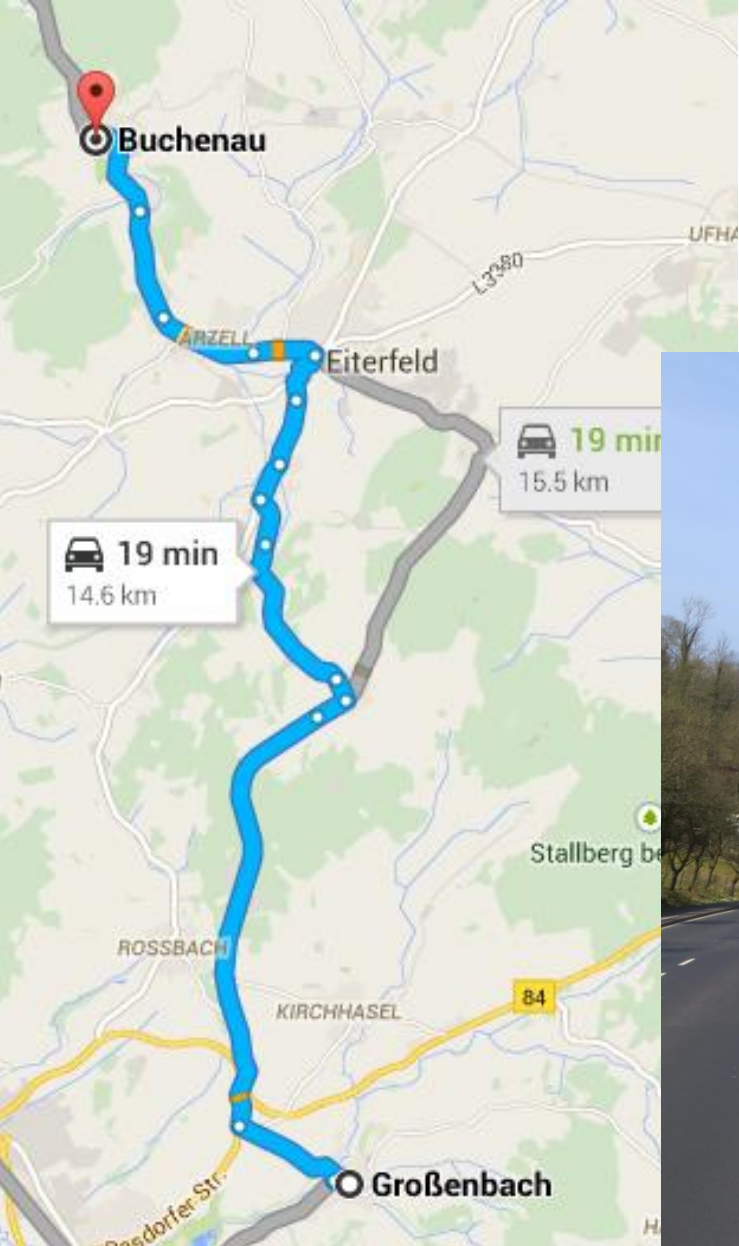




11:25am

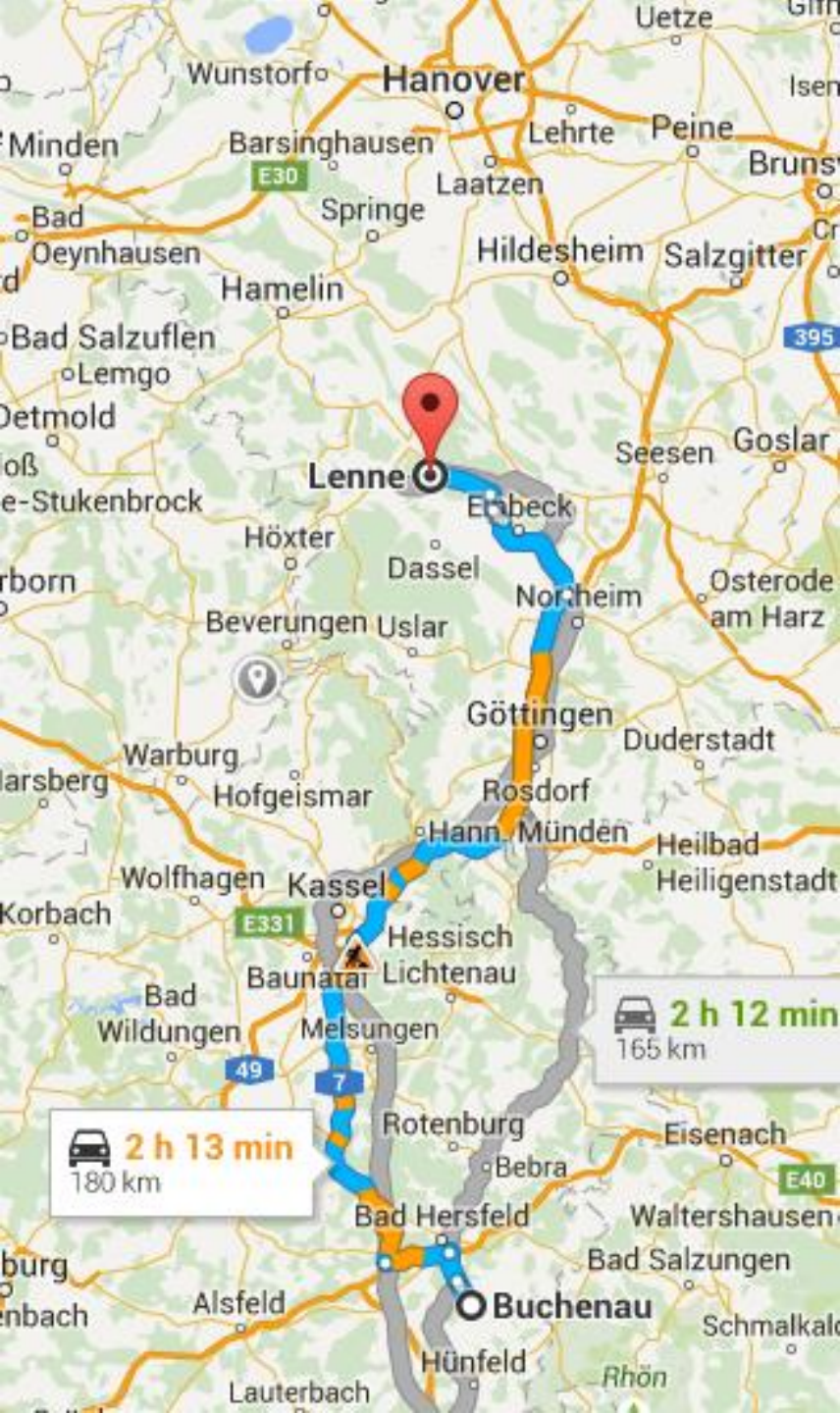


**Got to drive through a
small tunnel out in the
middle of nowhere.
11:32am**



11:40am





Got to Bad Hersfeld where we decided to do the grocery store lunch again. This one had a bakery/deli called *Guter Gerlach*. Told the clerks Rob was a Gerlach and they gave him a pin all their employees wear. 12:20pm. Nice weather today. Finished lunch, back on the road again.





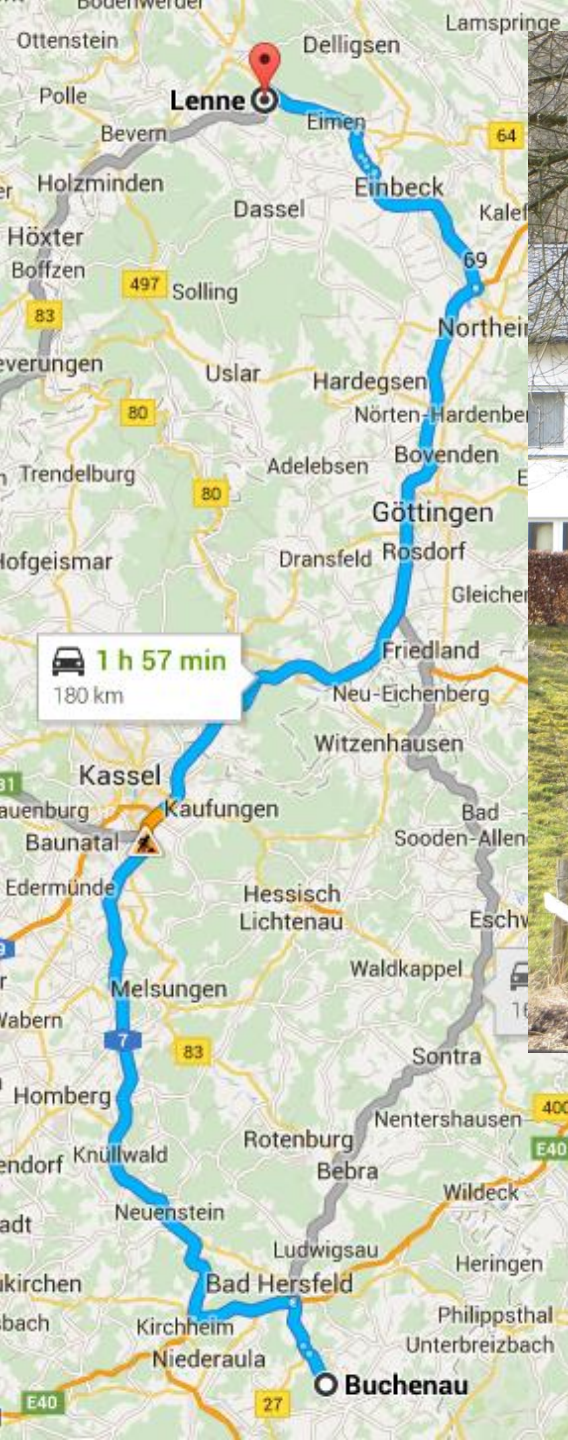
One of our several grocery store chips & sandwich lunches. About 45 minutes after we left here Rob had a panic attack when he thought he lost his camera. Pulled over and found it in the backpack. Whew



**Nice
scenery
2:38pm**



2:44pm Obviously heading north by lingering snow



Took us a little longer than the estimated 2 hours to get here probably because we didn't see the "road closed" sign in perhaps Einbeck, or Bovenden, can't remember... and had to detour some miles. Tried to talk construction guys into letting us though but not. We politely said "danke" to which he replied not so nicely, annoyed – maybe even in a bit of a Texas drawl, "bitte." Hey wait... was he making fun of us?

This was the northern most town on this excursion.... Only 42 miles from Rob's homeland of Hannover.





LENNE
SEIT 1072

**Decided to take a short
break from the road and
stretch the legs a bit and
check out this church.**

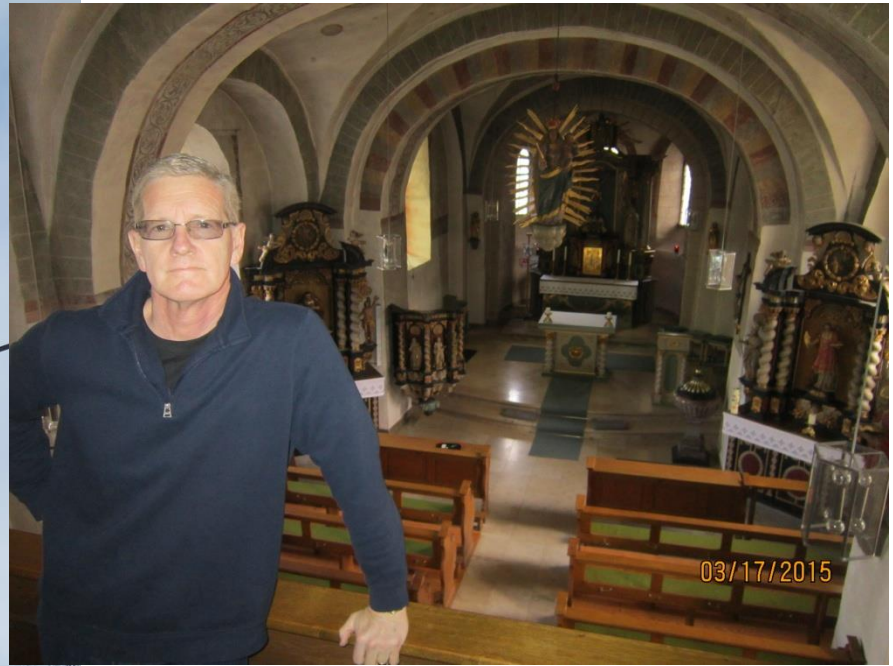








3:27pm





**Babbling brook
beside Lenne parish
church**

03/17/2015

Johannes Caspar Grobbel married Maria Elisabeth Schleime on 2 Dec 1793 in the Lenne parish church. They lived here in this house in Lenne, which is called the Schleimen Hof. Their son, Johan Jacob Anton Grobbel gt. Schleime, was born here in 1823. Anton had a son, named Anton Grobbel (b. 2 June 1851), who emigrated to Detroit, Michigan in 1884.



This house is built in the style called "Fachwerkhaus" or "half-timbered house" that is very common in the Sauerland. In the Sauerland, the timbers are always painted black, and many are engraved with prayers and/or the names and dates of previous inhabitants. A portion of the Schleimen Hof timber carvings are found about half way up.

03/17/2015

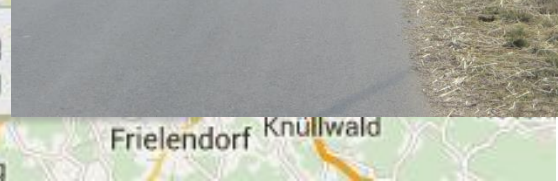
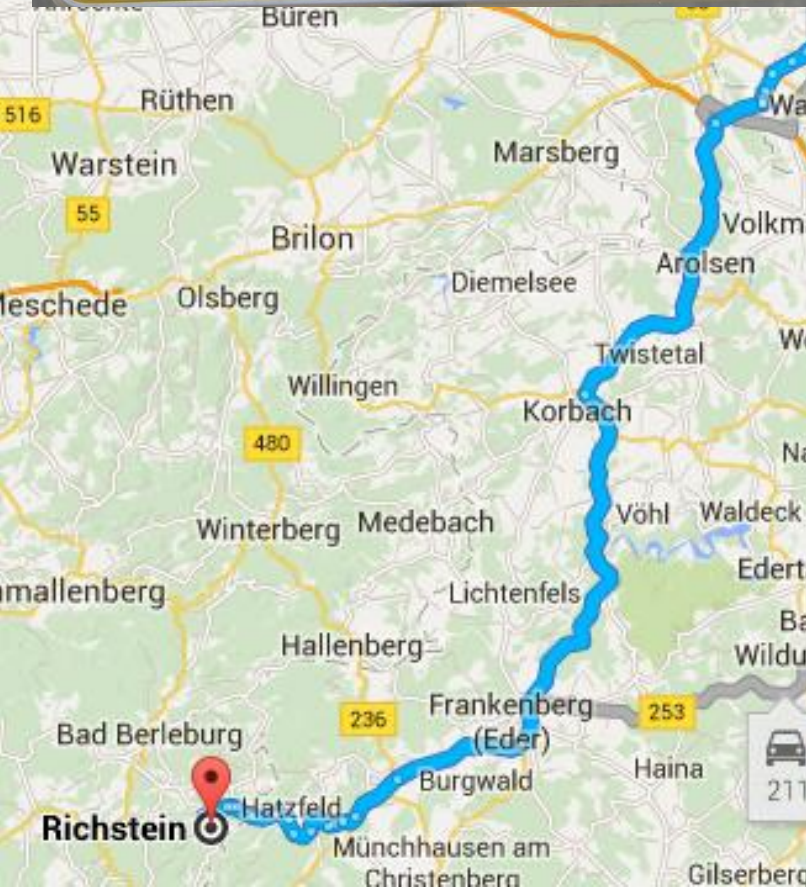


Then a bunch more miles of scenery like this. 3:45pm

Richstein
Stadt Bad Berleburg
Kreis
Siegen-Wittgenstein



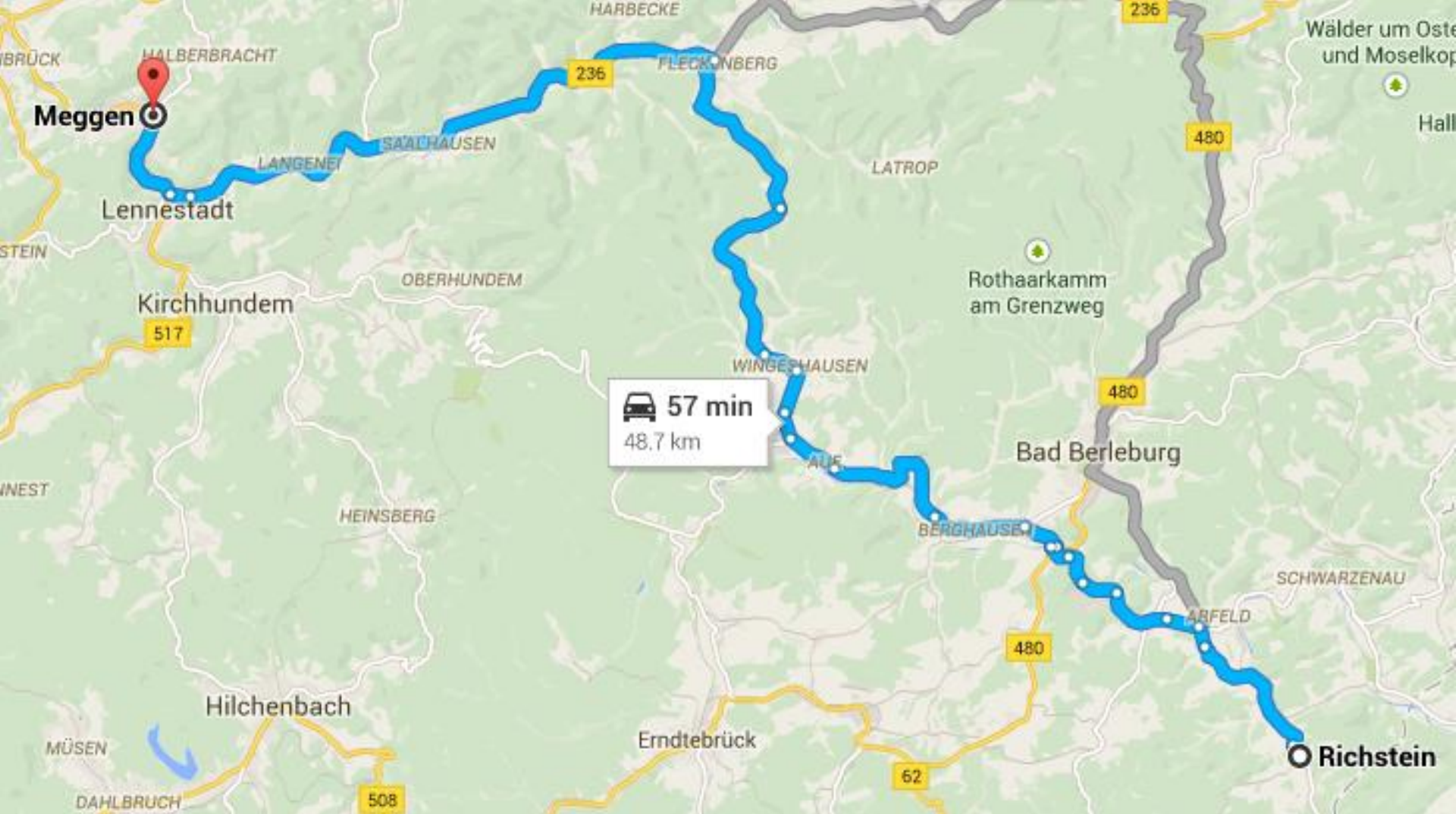
4:09pm





Richstein

Osterfeuer 04.04.19³⁰



Once we made it to Richstein, we punched Meggen into the Garmin. Said it was 277 miles. Decided to forget that and punched in Bamenohl. It might have been thinking Meggen, Switzerland. We back tracked some. As we approached a fairly decent size town, Rob saw the sign for Meggan. Holy cow! We just stumbled upon it by accident!

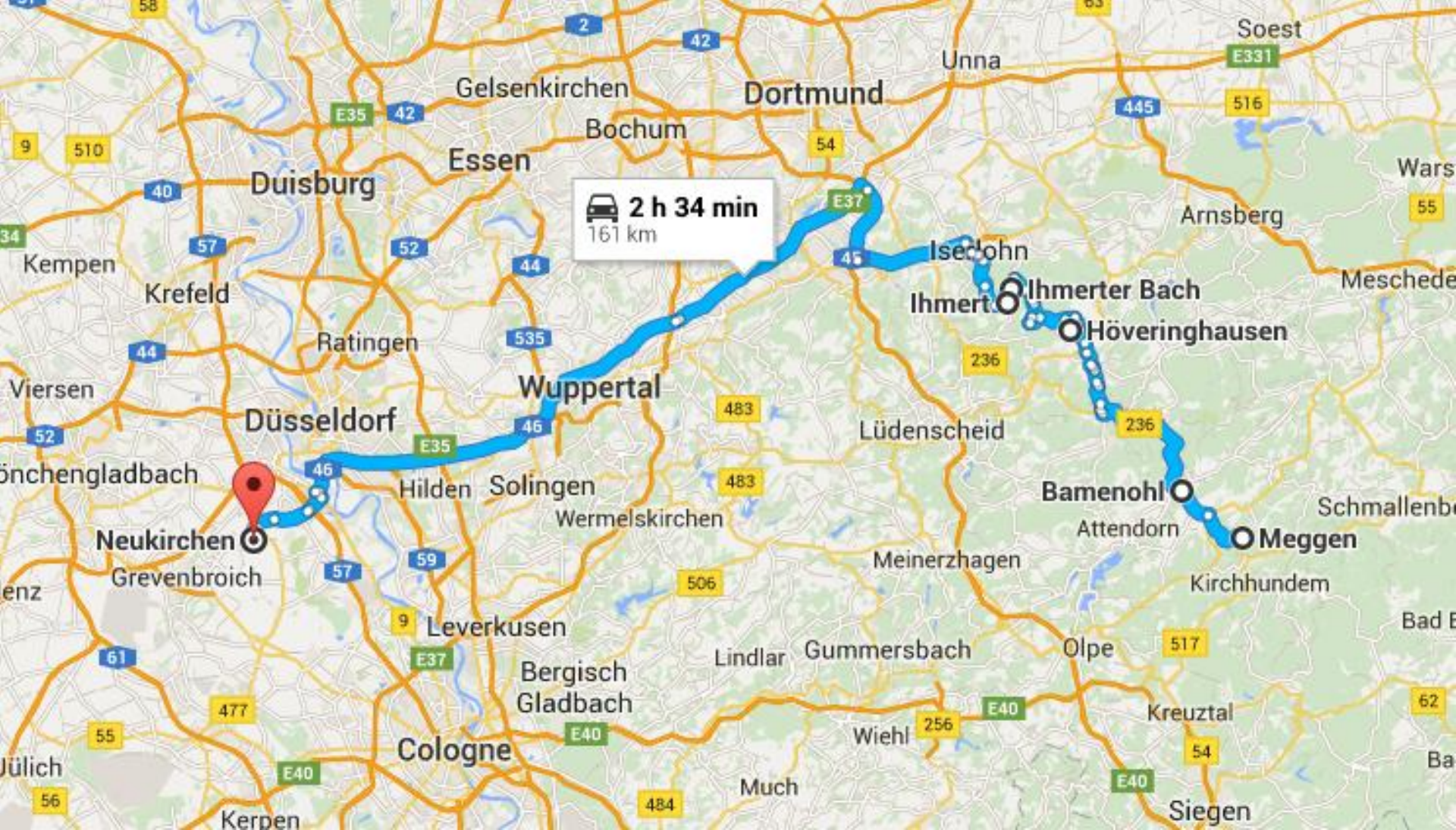


5:08pm

Ed decided he needed a picture of himself by a sign to prove he was there.



5:18pm



**Part “B” to today’s travel was 106 miles.
Somewhere... maybe the Wuppertal area... after
dark... we did Burger King for dinner.**



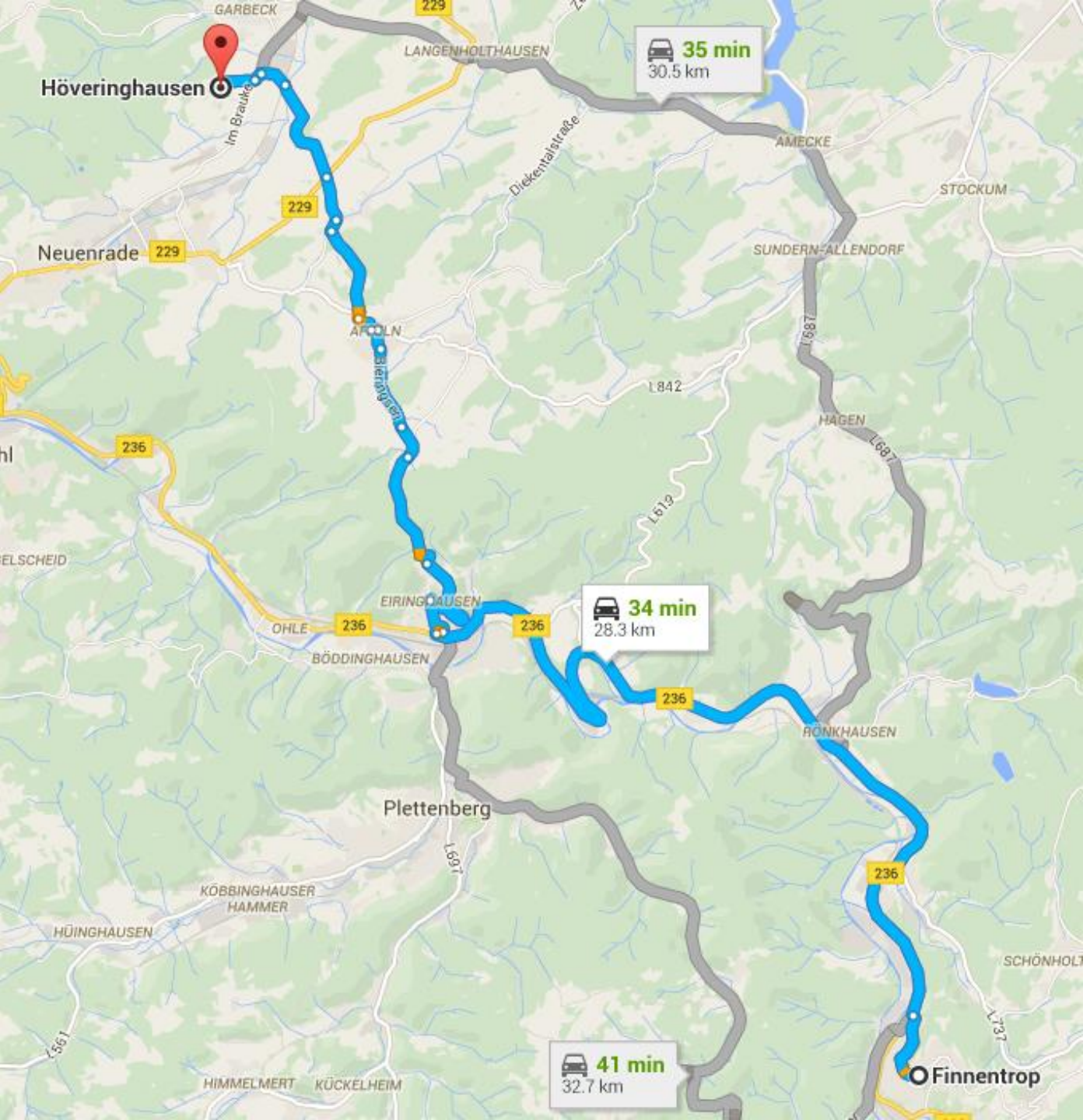
Guess Bamenohl and Finnentrop are kinda like twin cities.



Finnentrop
Kreis Olpe

5:41 pm





Hoveringhausen was probably the town with the longest name, but the smallest of villages. As we got within a mile or so from this place, a huge boulder was blocking part of the tiny road. Luckily we could drive around it. Was strange as there were no cliffs nearby for it to fall from.



**This town's sign
deserves a slide of
its own for the
craftsmanship that
it took to build it.
6:23pm**



**Not sure why
this gray loop is
on this map for a
2:29 hr trip by
train**

 >  >  2 h 29 min

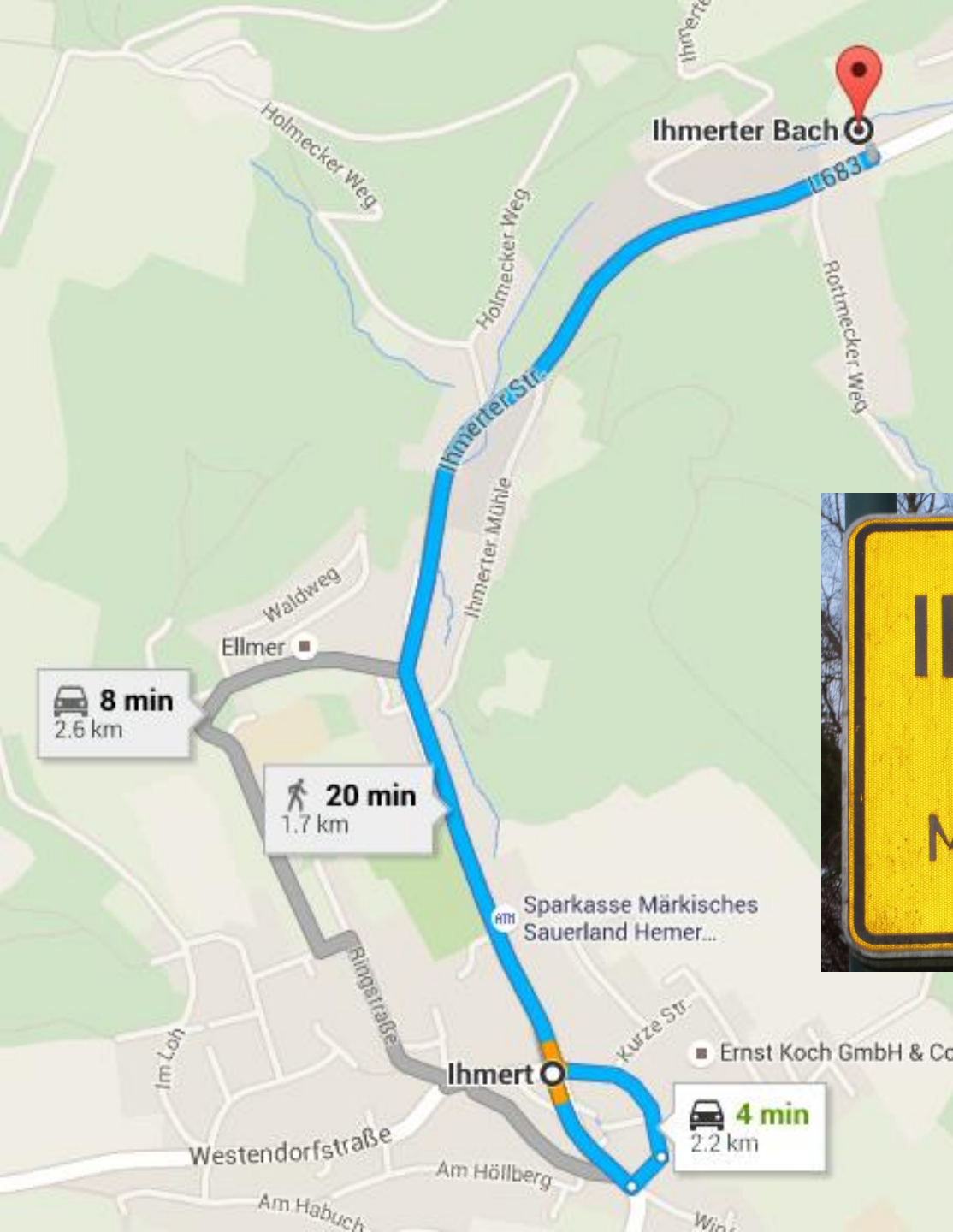


6:38 pm



Ihmert

Höveringhausen



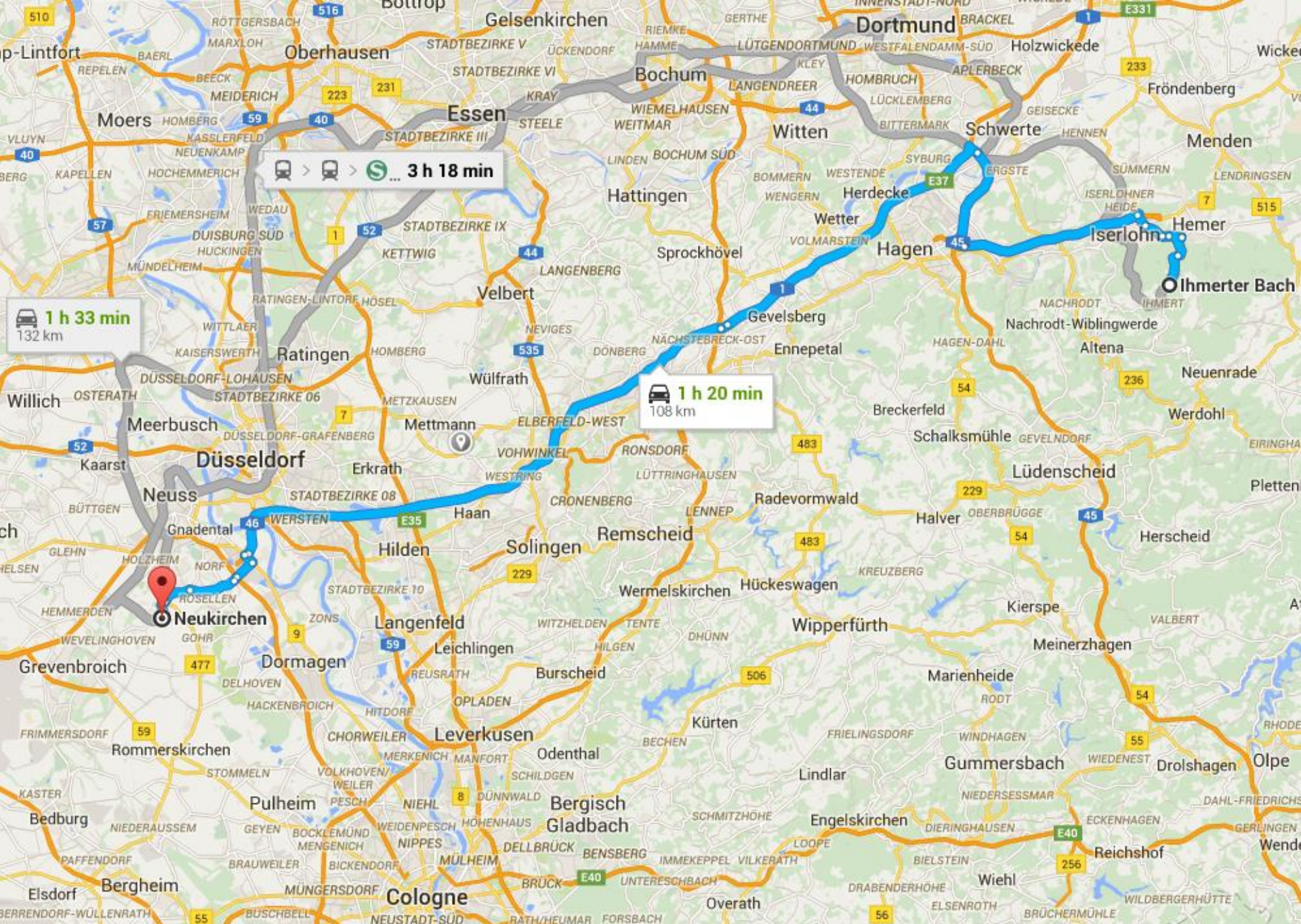
Not that it matters, but we seem to have gotten Ihmerterbach and Ihmert switched around on the list. Oh well. Good to know this leg would have only been a 20 min walk. 6:43pm



Ihmerterbach

Stadt Hemer
Märkischer Kreis





Mostly interstate, now getting tired. Last town in sight. Woo hoo!

At 8:33 pm we snapped this photo of the last town on the list. After a well-deserved high-five, we began our quest for lodging for the night. Grand total of 540 miles today.

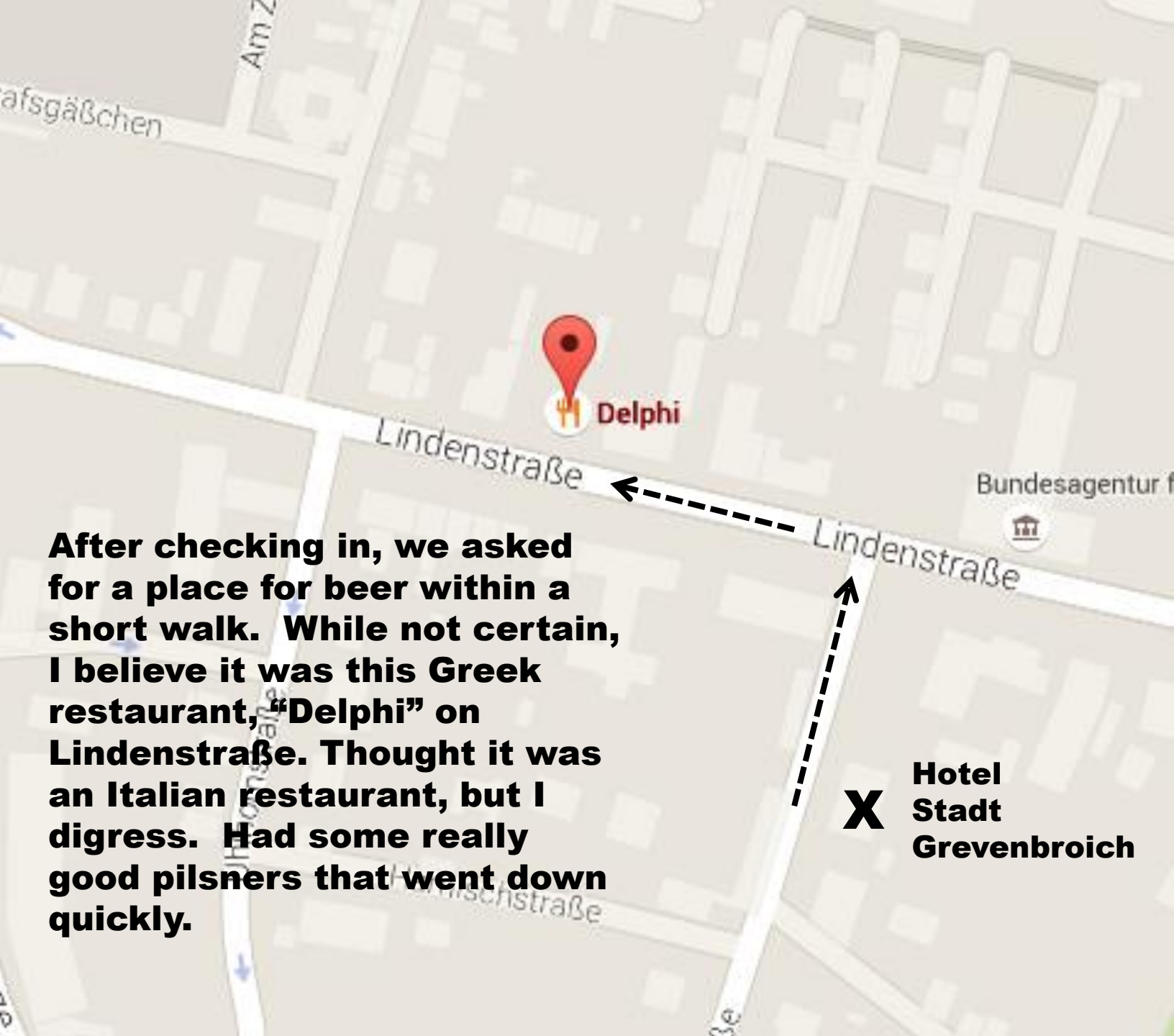




Several attempts at lodging in Neukirchen were unsuccessful. A lady at the third place we stopped phoned another place up the road that had a vacancy. But we had to get there by 10pm. It was 9:35. Punched in address on Garmin and off we were to Hotel Stadt Grevenbroich. Made it well before 10. It was dark, so it looked more like.... (next slide)

this





After checking in, we asked for a place for beer within a short walk. While not certain, I believe it was this Greek restaurant, “Delphi” on Lindenstraße. Thought it was an Italian restaurant, but I digress. Had some really good pilsners that went down quickly.

X Hotel Stadt Grevenbroich

11:08pm

After several Bitburger pilsners, and Ed telling the bartender he looked like American actor George Clooney, the guy gave us these shots to enjoy, which we politely did.



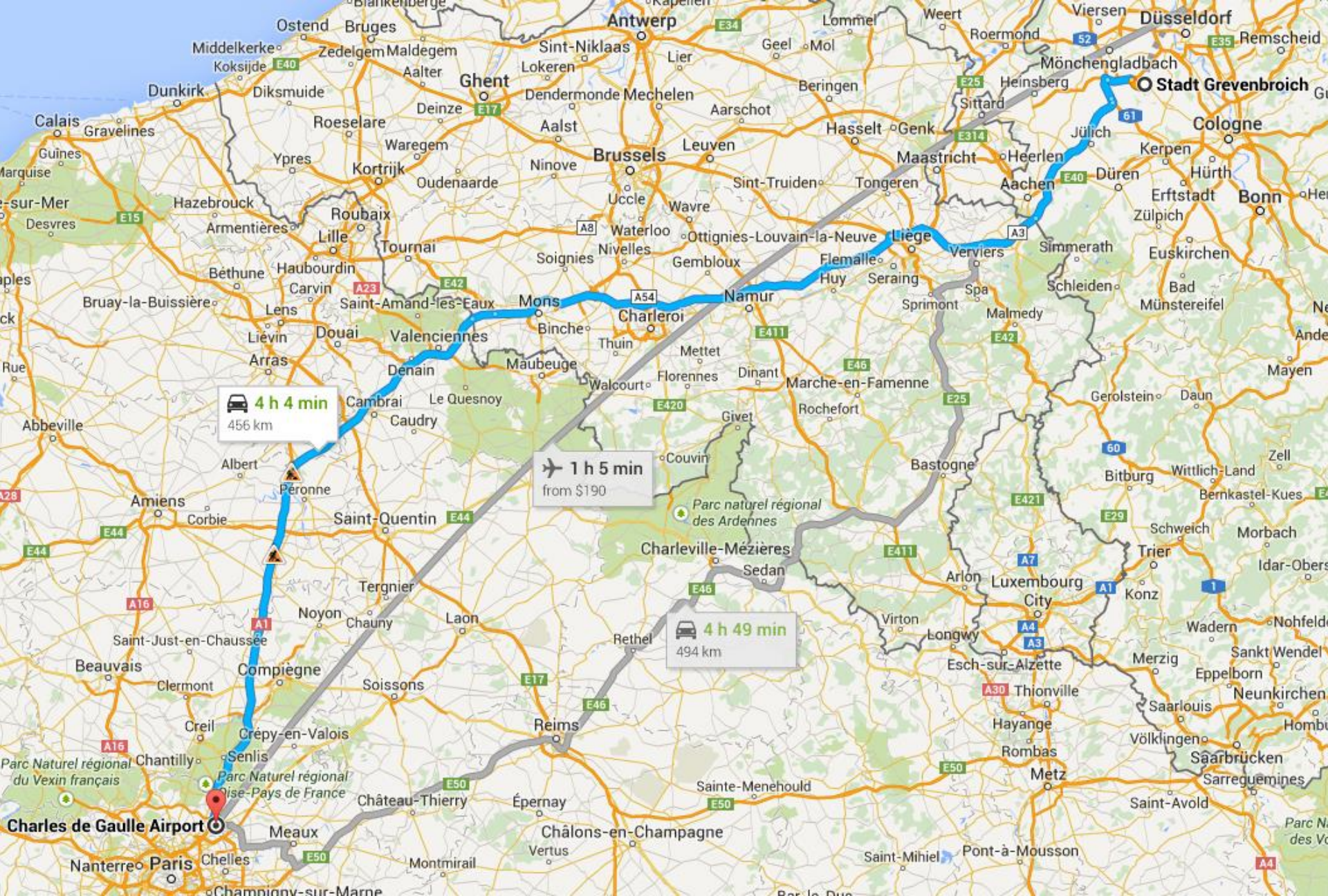




Day #7, 18 March 2015. We slept well after those beers & shots... until about 8:30am. No rush today since getting back to Paris and dropping off the car was our only plan. Had breakfast before hitting road. Paris appeared to be about a 300 mile drive.

Took this random shot along the interstate at 1pm. We had stopped for gas & sandwich/chips earlier.





456 km = 283 miles Grand trip total 2054.8 miles



**Bid farewell to
the car at 3:09pm**

Went through CDG airport and headed toward hotel for the night: Citizen M





**citizen
hotel**

This Citizen M had only recently been built. Very modern, very futuristic. No check-in desk. You walk in to a kiosk of computers where you do that, a staff person is there if you need help. The future in hotel stays I suppose. Got in and printed boarding passes for tomorrow's flight.

03/18/2015



03/18/2015





03/18/2015

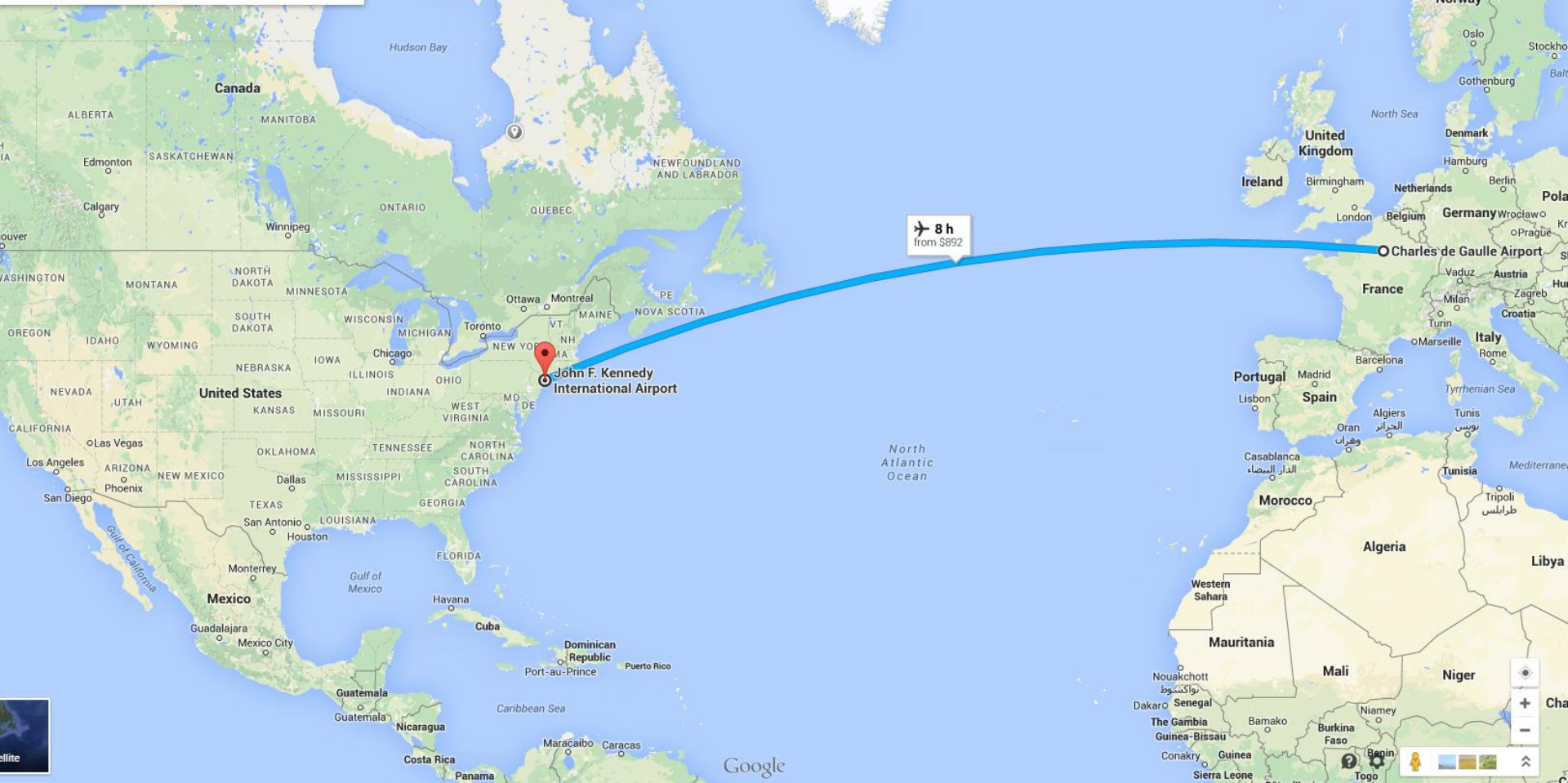
4:41pm Trying to decide what to do. Go into Paris – no chance of getting on St. Sulpice organ – or just relax. That's what we did. Beers, dinner, and a movie in the room.



03/18/2015



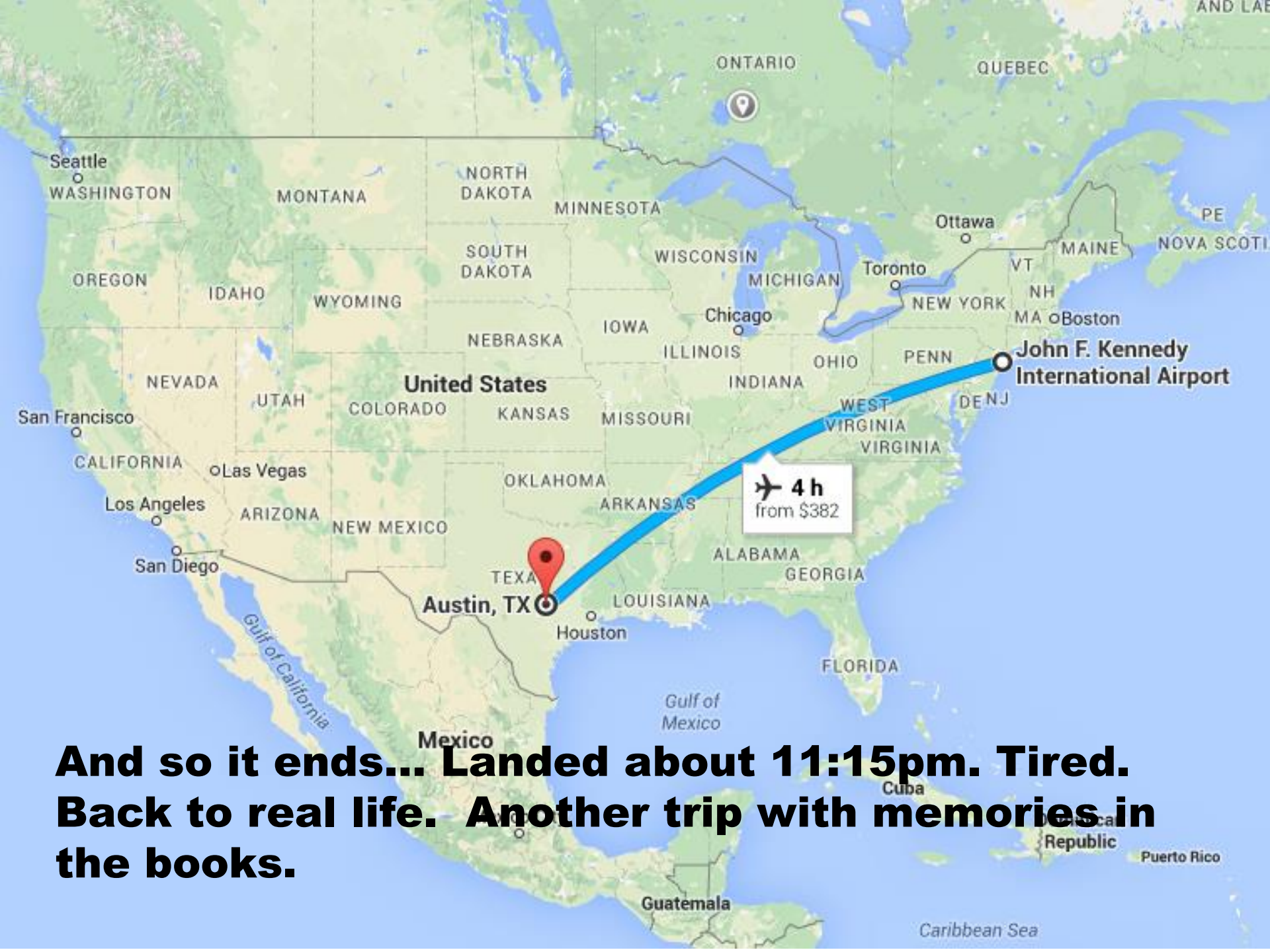
Grabbed some Duvals and headed to the room to watch a movie. Randomly selected 47 Ronin starring Keanu Reeves. Didn't find it to be horrible, but found on later research that it was one of the top box office bombs. After movie, went down to hotel bar for night cap.



Day # 8, 19 March 2015. Got up at 6:30am, had some breakfast and walked over to CDG, security, etc all in time for our 10am flight back to JFK.

**Got to JFK about 1:30pm
Lunch and libations in
airport pub. Flight to AUS
about 6:30pm**





And so it ends... Landed about 11:15pm. Tired. Back to real life. Another trip with memories in the books.

**Prosit, prosit comrade... egészségedre... skol....
i sveikata... to the girls (our wives, of course). Here's
to 15 years of guy travel, beers, and adventures.
Approaching age 60 way too rapidly. Still young &
strong. More years of adventures to come..**



HMMC

Productions