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MARAUDER RAID TO SWITZERLAND

August 12th – 19th 2025

In August 1950 George Mackie and Peter Wilks took the prototype Marauder, KAC 313, to Switzerland to carry out acceleration, braking and handling tests on the mountain passes around Interlaken. Having completed the tests they drove it to Brussels in a day, no mean feat when you consider there were no motorways!

In 2000, to commemorate fifty years since that achievement, three Marauders, including KAC, and some accompanying Rovers, repeated the journey, albeit we did take two days to drive to Brussels!

In 2010 and 2015 the Swiss passes were done again and it is intended to repeat the trip next year to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary. All Rovers, or Rover enthusiasts welcome!



The photograph of George & Peter is dated August 16th so we will be in Interlaken exactly seventy-five years on!

The proposed schedule is as follows:

Tuesday August 12th. Group meets up at Ibis Reims Tinquex. This is an easy 170 mile run down the French motorway from Calais. Cruise at 60mph and it'll take under four hours. Unlike UK!

Wednesday August 13th. We start by travelling the short distance (4 miles!) to the old Reims racing circuit and a chance to take a picture in the restored pits and drive the circuit.

After a coffee in the cafe in the village of Gueux where you can view all the period racing photographs that adorn the walls we set off for Beaune. Again an easy motorway run of 220 miles. The overnight stay will be in the Ibis Styles, just outside the walls of the ancient town and with its own underground car park. There should be plenty of time to walk into the town and there are a myriad of good restaurants!

Thursday August 14th. Beaune to Interlaken via scenic roads – 205 miles. I'm negotiating to try and get an advantageous rate for three night stay at the Hotel Derby, where we have stayed before. It's close to the town centre and you can watch the paragliders jump off the cliff. If you're brave enough you can pay to ride tandem!

Friday August 15th. The passes. We traverse the Furka, Old St. Gothard, and Grimsel, emulating what was done in 1950. It's 145 miles of spectacular scenery and those who have watched Goldfinger will remember the Aston chewing up the tyre on the Mustang. That, as well as other sections of the film were done on the Furka Pass. To get an idea Google 911 meets 007: Furka Pass James Bond Goldfinger Locations. Filmed from a 911 it's really good!

Saturday August 16th. Free day in Interlaken. You might decide to take a train trip up the Jungfrau to the highest station in Europe at 3463 metres (11, 250 feet) in the morning and perhaps the vintage paddle steamer to Thun and back in the afternoon.

Sunday, August 17th. An easy 115 mile run up the motorway to the incredible Schlumpf Museum in Mulhouse. A amazing number of vintage Bugattis as well as hundreds of different marques assembled as part of the Schlumpf brothers obsession.

From Mulhouse we travel across country to Epinal, a distance of 70 miles. Ibis Epinal Centre-Ville, on the edge of the river and close, as the name suggests, to the town centre.

Monday, August 18th. Epinal to Reims, 165 miles. Again an easy run and maybe worth a slight detour to take in the train around the champagne caves at Mercier in Epernay. There is, also a big and interesting private car museum in Reims!

I will be issuing full details of the hotels to anyone interested so they can book direct, and also people entered can have a rally plate at cost. If enough participants it would be possible to arrange a support vehicle and mechanic.

In addition detailed daily route maps will be given out at Reims (no cost!).

Of course anyone is welcome to join along the way and it's worth noting that with OUG 777 in 2015 Rona and I stayed overnight in Dover, caught an early ferry, drove direct to Interlaken, and went out for dinner. This February I drove OUG from Monaco to North Wales in two days – the bit across France was easy, the UK section not so!

I'm happy to answer any queries either by email, maraudercars@gmail.com, or by phone on 07803 407881.



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ABOVE: FURKA PASS

