

Dear John

Many thanks for your newsletter No. 204, and that you intend to issue bulletins if members in the future send you their news.

I now take this opportunity to tell you how the club started in London at the outbreak of the second World War, September 1939.

Frank Magatti, who was a member of the Polytechnic CC became our leader and arranged Sunday rides which meant going to early mass and often Benediction at the end of the ride. He took his leadership very seriously, such as doing 100 miles in 8 hours and two 25 mile races on roads that were closed to traffic. We also had two night rides starting at midnight from Marble Arch to the south coast.



Club run 1940 (Me on the right)



Club run 1940

IRELAND 1946

Immediately after the war ended Frank arranged a trip to Ireland. 10 of us cycled to Liverpool and took the ferry to Belfast. We cycled along the north coast all the way to Galway, then by train to Dublin and cycled to Belfast and back to home.



Silent valley hostel with mountains of Mourne in the background 30 Aug 1946 (Frank Magatti front left)



Summit of Slieve Donand 2796 ft 30 Aug 1946



Back in London, near Euston Station 1 September 1946

SWITZERLAND 1947

Another memorable trip abroad, this time lead by Carl Eherenzeller was to Switzerland. In extremely hot weather we covered all the country, all the passes and even the Rhone glacier which we entered into on foot and refreshed ourselves by licking the ice in a tunnel.



Between Ilanz and Disentis 28 July 1947



Basket maker of Reichenau Switzerland July 1947



Near Flims July 1947

FRANCE/ITALY 1950

In 1950 Frank took me and a few others to Rome to celebrate the Holy Year. This was partly by bike but mostly by train.



Wash in River Arc Near Aiguebelle 3 Sep 1950



French /Italian border Mt Cenis September 1950



Outside the Basilica of St Paul 10 Sep 1950



Pope Pius XII at Castel Gandolfo 9 Sep 1950

Well, that's enough of my reminiscences for now.



Christmas Day 2019 with my family: Anthony, Gemma, Philip, Jonathan & Penny



Yours sincerely

Eugene

Eugene Donetti, March 2020