

FIFE CYCLISTS' TOUR THROUGH GERMANY

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The members of the Cyclists' Touring Club (Fife District) had a very enjoyable trip through Germany and Belgium at the holiday season. Under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Brown, Senr. of Dunfermline, the party – Wm. Brown, Junr., W.L. Browne, Burntisland, Sandy Lunan and Aidan Byrne, Kirkcaldy, sailed from Leith to Hamburg on Wednesday, 12th July, by the 'S.S. Weimar'. From there they journeyed by rail to Berlin, where they were met by a lady member of the club, Miss D.A. Robertson, of Kirkcaldy, at present resident in Berlin. Two days were spent doing the sights of the city; a cycle run to Potsdam to visit the ex-Kaiser's palaces and gardens – a wonderful sight.

Time being limited, the party trained to Magdeburg, and from there set out on a cycle tour through the Hartz mountains. They were fortunate in having Miss Robertson's company for the next three days, which greatly assisted in making the trip a success, she being thoroughly conversant with the language. From Magdeburg the journey was along roads lined by all kinds of fruit trees, apples, pears, cherries, etc. (cherries cost three farthings a pound in British money). The night was spent at Halberstadt on the edge of the Hartz forest.

Next day the tour was through entirely different country – the famous Hartz mountains, a magnificent piece of country, thickly wooded, mostly with larch and other firs of enormous height. The road lay by way of Blankenburg; a halt was made at Rubeland where the famous stalactite caves were explored. The party then boarded the rack railway train which took them to the top of the famous Brocken, 3415 feet high, where the night was spent in the large hotel on the summit. Here a furious wind and rainstorm was encountered, which, while it stopped any chance of seeing the sunrise – and the Brocken Spectre – was in itself a spectacle which will not be readily forgotten by any of the party.

Early next morning the descent was begun and proved quite an exciting adventure in the thick mist, until suddenly they emerged from the cloud as a lower altitude was reached and the sun shone out on a scene of unparalleled grandeur. The run was continued by way of Eland, St. Andreasberg, Harzberg, to Gottingen. Here the night was passed and the train taken next day to Coblenz, where the Rhine steamer was boarded and a sail of sixty miles to Cologne through picturesque and varied scenery, was enjoyed by all.

At Coblenz a party of Belgian Cyclists' Touring Club, who were also touring Germany, were encountered, and congratulations and experiences were exchanged. Cologne was reached about five o'clock and here Miss Robertson had to return to Berlin by rail. Next day the others went by rail to Brussels, and on by road to Ghent, where the last night on foreign soil was spent. A fine run by way of the picturesque city of Bruges brought the party to Zeebrugge where the 'S.S. Duke of Clarence' lay alongside the mole, ready to transport them across to Hull.

Altogether it was a marvellous trip, and owing to the slump of the mark, everything, especially railway travelling, was ridiculously cheap. No difficulties were encountered touring in Germany, and the people everywhere were exceedingly kind. Altogether a distance of over 2000 miles was covered by steamer, train and cycle, and everyone was highly pleased with the great success of the adventure.