

As our bus departed, Dad was somewhat taken aback by his first experience in a vehicle proceeding down the "wrong side" of the street in the maze of traffic at Heathrow. As we entered the long tunnel under the airport runways he asked how the driver was going to get on the right side of the road with that wall separating the four lanes of traffic!

The Excelsior Hotel was expecting us and we had a nice room equipped with TV overlooking the swimming pool. We took the opportunity to turn on the news and catch up on a bit of the news while we had been isolated by the language barrier.

After getting settled I looked into the possibility of hiring a car and driver, for the next morning, to see some of the high spots of London. I also checked on renting a car so we could drive out to Chertsey, Addlestone and Weybridge to visit Gladys's relatives. It had been a long day for Dad with all the walking through the Louvre so we got to bed early.

On Thursday morning the 26th of August we had a Continental Breakfast in our room. Promptly at 9:30 our driver, Martin, was waiting at the front door with a large comfortable Woolsley, parked on the "wrong side" of the driveway.

Although Dad was now a "veteran" of a one mile ride from Heathrow to the hotel, he now began to experience local traffic, traffic circles and the A4 Dual Carriageway to downtown London. We finally reached the River Thames embankment with driver Martin explaining all the the points of interest.



Along the banks of the Thames we saw this suspension bridge and an electric generation station.

Following the Thames we saw several suspension bridges across the river. As we

approached Westminster we saw the Houses of Parliament and then Big Ben.



Big Ben as seen through the trees from the other side of the River Thames.



An everyday occurrence is the changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Here is the band marching toward the Palace for this very formal affair.



The band passing Victoria Monument on their way to the Palace.