

EMAIL UPDATE

ATTN. TROOPS:

- MARCH 5, 2013: JOHN CURRIE, SISTERON, FRANCE: I am in Southern France for six weeks and for the first time, actively seeking military vehicle and militaria collectors. France has the equivalent of 101 states—departments—with 6 located offshore. There are HMV collector clubs scattered throughout, with an umbrella organization, the MVCG (Military Vehicle Collection Group—beats me why it’s written in English!).

I attended two Bourses Militaires—Militaria Markets--the equivalent of the Militaria Shows held at the MN State Fairgrounds twice each year. I attended the first in Soubrirous, north and west of Toulouse, with my wife, Jeannine. That was hosted by a regional MVCG club, so there were close to a dozen HMVs there. Our big discovery there was a complete WWII WAC uniform, minus the shoes, in her size. She will be out-dressing me soon at some MN Red Bull event.

I confirmed an earlier perception that most things here, particularly MV parts, are considerably more expensive than in the States. As a rule, 2x more seemed to be the rule, so searching for bargains required a strong constitution. On the other hand, there were things seen here that I have never seen back home: Solid wood-soled WWII German winter boots, hair-out cowhide-flapped German backpacks, tables filled with deactivated weapons, Napoleonic sabers, NOS US Army field gear, WWII US uniforms and gear adapted for use by the French in Algeria and Vietnam, Arabian daggers.

Here is a glimpse of what I found at the bourse in Sisteron, south of Lyon.





Sisteron is just a bit different than the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. The castle does not have a water slide and there is no All-You-Can-Drink Milk Stand at the front gate.



It does have such things as a fully functional K43 rifle, unopened heat fuel cans, French paratrooper berets and parachutes, meat cans, and a whole lotta guys who sound like LeBeau from "Hogan's Heroes." Oh, and fresh baguette sandwiches. And red wine. Lots and lots of red wine. **IRB**

