

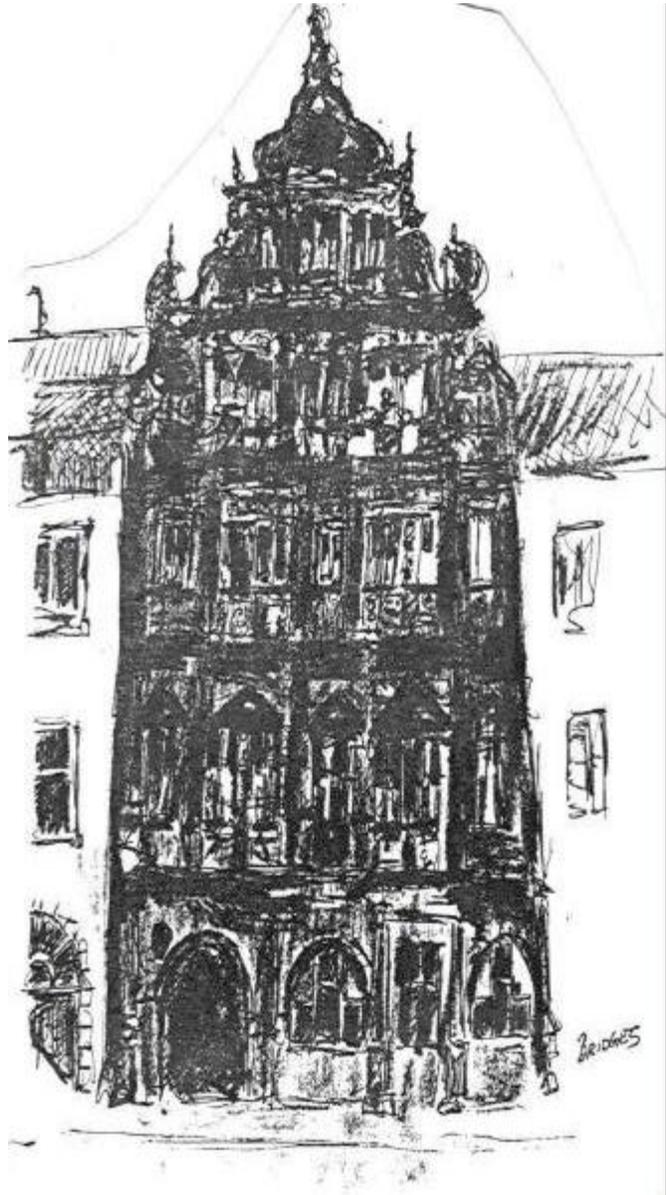
“HEIDELBERG”

HISTORICAL TRAIL



POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Scout Hut, Gordon Burnett Community Center (no longer available)
2. Rohrbacher Strasse Strassenbahn Stop
3. Bismarckplatz
4. Stadthalle
5. Riverside
6. Theodor Heuss Bridge
- 6A. Start Philosophers' Way
7. University of Heidelberg (Physics Department)
8. Scenic Overlook
9. Start Schlangenweg
10. John Nepomuk Statue
11. Am Brueckentor
12. Brass Monkey
13. Jewish Synagogue Site
14. Marstall
15. River looks
16. Karl's Gate
17. Thuringia Korps
18. NE Corner of Castler (rest)
19. Krautturm
20. Castle Gardens
21. Main Castle Gardens
- 21A. Molkenkur-First Castle Site
22. North Façade
23. Elizabeth's Gate
24. Heiliggeist Kirche
25. Dreikoenig Strasse
26. Student Prison
27. University Square
28. University Library
29. Wormser Hof
30. Kurpfaelzisches Museum
31. Friedrichs Bau



HEIDELBERG HISTORICAL TRAIL

INTRODUCTION

A tour of the romantic city of Heidelberg, quietly nestled on the Neckar River, presents a unique opportunity to Boy Scouts of the Transatlantic Council for several reasons:

Heidelberg, as the once established capital of the palatinate, exerted great influence over the political affairs and history of Central Europe.

Americans living in Europe and American visitors to Germany feel a special affinity to Heidelberg; an affinity nurtured through a relatively simple yet, totally loved story of a "Student Prince."

Finally, it is one of several historic trails available to Boy and Cub Scouts in Europe.

Scout Huts, Camping and Stassenbahns

Before we actually start describing the various sites in Heidelberg, let us speak a bit about some overnight

accommodations that are available to Scout units in the Heidelberg area.:

Tompkins woods is available it is free to camp there. No picnic tables or covers. There is port a potty out there. No fees for camping. Tompkins Wood is between Mannheim Seckenheim, and Schwetzingen about 6-8 miles from Heidelberg

We recommend the Rod and Gun Club that has bathrooms with showers and a restaurant on site. There are also fire rings, covers, BBQ Grills and picnic tables. There is a 10.00 a camp fee.

Need to call in advance to make sure the area is available 06202 51193

The address is: An der Bundesstrasse 291 68723 Oftersheim

PHV Scout Hut. Has kitchen, tables, bathrooms and showers but not sure if showers work never used them. If you want to use this scout hut it is free and I would need to know in advance so I can check it to make sure it is available for the days you want to stay there. Contact the Transatlantic Council office at program@tac-bsa.org to find out who is responsible for arrangements through the current Executive..

"The Strass" (BS, CS) believe it or not, most persons who come to Heidelberg to hike the trail have never ridden on a streetcar in their lives. This is true of the adults as well as the Cub and Boy Scouts them. So an experience in itself can be had at the beginning of the trail by walking from the Scout Hut up to Feuerbachstrasse, across Roemerstrasse (be careful of this very busy street – recommend that all cross at crosswalk and obey the pedestrian crossing signal), than on to Rohrbacherstrasse to the Strassenbahn stop (see dotted trail from Scout Hut to Strasse stop -- #2 on map).

The hiker will find no test at the end of these instructions. The best part of the Heidelberg story, is the sights and sounds of the city itself. A scoutmaster may, should he/she desire, require a written or verbal report by the Scouts upon their return to their home troop.

Each of the sites is coded with one more of the following letters: BS for Boy Scouts; CS for Cub Scouts. The intent is to offer general guidance to the hikers as to which sites would provide or captivate the interests of the respective Scouts.

If a unit would want to forego the Strass ride, the actual start of the Heidelberg Historic Trail is at BISMARCKPLATZ. It is impossible to miss BISMARCKPLATZ (#3 on map) once you are near it.... There is a large HORTON'S DEPARTMENT STORE (Ultra modern designed building); also, virtually every form of mass transportation servicing Heidelberg stops at BISMARCKPLATZ. It might be a good idea to purchase Strassenbahn tickets for your return trip. (For the return trip, the heartier groups (especially if the

Scouts “sleep well” that night), you can hike on back down Rohrbacherstrasse to Feuerbachstrasse to the Scout Hut. (See map).

THE HEIDELBERG HISTORICAL TRAIL

BISMARCKPLATZ (BS, CS) #3 on map.

Bismarck became Chancellor of Prussia (compare to Prime Minister) in 1862.

Bismarck was ruthless, but also brilliant and prudent. He melded the German states into a unified empire.

In spite of the fact that there was no love lost among members, when outside threat presented itself, members banded together to fight common foes.

Just standing at the Bismarckplatz itself can be a study in the history of Heidelberg. As you look at Hortens's turn to the left towards the town. You would be looking at what many “old” Heidelbergers consider to be the western limit of the city. This group to our tour considers nothing on the Sofienstrasse: Face Hortens's and then do a 180-degree turn – or if you are military oriented do an about face. If you brought your compass, an approximate azimuth of 0 degrees to 360 degrees should get you headed north. Be careful crossing the trolley (Strassenbahn) tracks and the bus access roads. As you head north you'll pass an interesting fountain (notice the square and cube shaped stones so inviting to walk, run and romp on...but be wary in warm weather...the water comes on when you least expect it). Okay, now that you have dried your younger Scouts out, continue on north for no more than 50 meters and you will come to a bust of Otto von Bismarck. A good way of starting this portion of the tour is to ask the Scouts who have younger brothers or sisters. Then ask if they like to tease or even hit their younger siblings. Inevitably, several will raise their hands. Then using this point as a stepping-stone, compare the independent German pre-Bismarck kingdoms to fighting siblings. Provide and explanation of Bismarck's role in unifying Germany by making these points.

In 1870, Bismarck provoked France into war (France declared war on Germany). This war stirred the feelings of nationalism and patriotism, which were the cement that unified Germany. Germans under Bismarck won this Franco-Prussian war “Big Time” (use these words, younger Scouts will understand!).

You can get information on Bismarck at your library, from your encyclopedia, or from the bibliography listed at the end of this instruction.

STADTHALLE (BS) #4 on map. Built between 1900 and 1901, it is a concert hall, opera house, or city auditorium. It does have some significance for a group of young Americans every June, for it is here that Heidelberg High School students celebrate their graduation.

The Stadthalle is rich in the 1900's style of architecture (still Bismarck's time). The décor of the Stadthalle façade incorporates the coats of arms and protracts of Heidelberg is many leading residents, as well as several symbols of the city's principal trades.

RIVERSIDE (BS) #5 on map.

Coming out of the front of the Stadthalle turn right or north towards the River. Cross Neckarstaden (carefully – it's another busy street) and move to the stone steps that lead down to the River. This is the closest you will actually come to the River on the entire tour. (Could even feed the ducks and swans if you have the bread). Key point you might want to remember and note here is this: The Neckar has flooded several times in the history of the city. The most recent time was March 1988 when the River rose quite high. So high in fact, that if you were standing where you are now in March of 1988, you would have been about fifteen feet under water. While you are here, look out along the riverbanks. ON a good day, and if you are lucky, you can see ducks, swans, scull boats (single and crew), maybe paddle boats, sailboats, and cruise boats. These can normally be seen tied up on the Southern bank (the same side you are on). A fun type excursion is to take one of the cruise boats up the Neckar River on a sunny spring or summer day. Even more fun is to take an evening cruise on a summer night when the burnings of the castle are commemorated with a huge firework display.

THEODOR HEUSS BRIDGE (BS, CS) #6 on map.

Came back up the stone steps you used to get to the River Site and move west along Neckarstaden to the Theodor Heuss Bridge (It's the one with the streetcar tracks). Turn right onto the bridge (North or 360/0 degrees for the guy with the compass). Recommend you stop at one of the pedestrian overlooks, conveniently located on the Theodore Heuss Bridge, for your first panoramic view of Old Heidelberg on the right; and the Heiligenberg or "Holy Mountain" on the left. Caution to the leaders: on warm spring days and even more so on hot summer ones, the northern banks of the River Neckar filled almost to capacity with sun bathers. Germany being just a bit more "progressive" than what we are used to in the States might give just cause for some of the sunbathers to be rather less clad than what you are use to. Therefore, to put it tastefully, the Scout might experience a unique biological experience.

PHILOSOPHERS WALK (BS, CS) #6A

From your position on the Bridge, continue north to either Neuenheimer Landstrasse or one block farther to Ladenburger Strasse. In either case, you will end up turning right. In the former you will have to walk one block down, turn left, then walk yet another block to Philosophenweg. In the latter case you turn right, then walk one block straight ahead and arrive essentially at the same spot. You should be able to see the sign to Philosophenweg from where you stand.

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY (BS, CS) #7 on map.

As you start up the hill, and we do mean up the hill, start looking for a school building-like structure on the right side of the Philosophers' Walk. It is just about at the point where you think you cannot take another step. The Scouts, especially the younger ones, will want to run up the

Hill, while the older ones, as well as the adults, will want to quit. Nevertheless, the Physics Department Building provides two excellent opportunities: one for everyone to catch their breath and the second, to relate the importance of Heidelberg University to the existence of Heidelberg as a city. In 1386, the University of Heidelberg established by Prince Elector (one of the seven German Princes who had the right to vote for the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire) Ruprecht. There were very few universities in the world at the time and it was only a religious argument that led to the election of two Popes: Pope Urban, who was elected by Italian princes or Cardinals and ruled from Avignon in France. All this amounted to a sense of nationalism triumphing over religion; and the pride of having a university took precedence over whether or not the University was associated with a man named Urban or a man named Clement. However, the fact of the matter is that were it not for this fateful turn of events, Heidelberg would probably not exist as the city we know it today.

Now is probably the best time to take just a few seconds and make a bit of a comparison: Heidelberg University to a typical American University. In America, one finds a relatively homogeneous campus with a city or a town that has developed around the outskirts of the University. In Heidelberg, one finds the opposite true. The city is really interspersed with the University buildings appear on both banks of the Neckar and throughout the old city, as well as in some, if not most, of the 'modern suburbs' of Heidelberg.

PHILOSOPHENWEG SCENIC OVERLOOK (BS, CS) #8 on map.

After you stop at the Physics Department, come back out to Philosophenweg and move to the east (right as you come out). Stay on Philosophenweg until you go beyond the last house or residence on the road. Shortly after that, (50-100 yards at the most) you will come to a set of steps leading off the right (riverside) of Philosophenweg. There is a small grassy area surrounded by park benches, an area, which presents a nearly perfect panoramic view of Heidelberg, the Dream City. (Consider having the adults in the group use the benches, while the Scouts can sit on the grass for your next presentation). Moreover, your next presentation is a key one. The first point is: The early settlements in Heidelberg rose on the northern bank of the River, the same side you are currently on. These settlements as such date back to the Celts who were in the Heidelberg area before the birth of Christ. However, the history of man dates back far beyond 2000 years. Just a few miles southeast of Heidelberg a jawbone of a human being was located in the village of Mauer. Modern carbon dating process, when applied to this jawbone, revealed the age to be 550,000 years!!!

Look north up the hill at what the Celts called the "holy" or "saintly" mountain, the Heiligenberg. Remnants of a wall dating before the birth of Christ still exist on top of the hill. However, that is not all that is up on top of this special mountain. Up beyond the Celtic wall is a special kind of city auditorium. Its German name is "THINGSTATTE". What it is really, is an amphitheater that was built not centuries ago, but just a few decades ago. It is a bit of a unique site in Heidelberg. It was built for Hitler Youth Organizations in the 1930's. In addition, while it as built for other purposes it presents an acoustical marvel. It is a stone city hall. You can stand on the stage of this amphitheater; speak in a normal tone, yet a person sitting in the top row of the theater (nearly 200 meters away) will here you. Almost as well if you were standing next to any member of the audience.

However, the story of the Heiligenberg does not stop here. One continues up the hill to the restored ruins of Saint Michael's Basilica, which dates back to the 8th century AD but the story of the Heiligenberg somewhat ends with the trek up to Saint Michael's. One suggestion – be sure to

climb one of the two restored towers to get a magnificent view of Mannheim. Now you can turn your attention to the city on the south side of the River. You can see two church steeples – one is almost on a southeast line to the Castle. This is the Church of the Holy Spirit, the HEILIGGEIST KIRCHE. The second noticeable church steeple is a bit deeper into the city but to the right on the Holy Spirit Church. Heidelberg really experienced a Protestant versus Catholic disagreement, the Reformation, which eventually reached a fever pitch in Heidelberg.

By 1705, the Catholics and Protestants built a wall in the former church. This is used to separate the two different services. About the same time the Catholic order of priests, known as the Jesuits, were building the second Heiliggeist Kirche. Local rumors or legends suggest the elector at the time, not wishing to share his other Church with the Protestants, had the second church specifically built and named to spite the Protestants.

Now it is time to move on; move back up to the Philosophenweg. On spring and summer days there is a small “Schnell Imbiss”, or German answer to McDonalds, where you can purchase snacks and drinks and postcards. Remember that a Scout is clean, so put your trash in the receptacles provided. At the snack stand there is a fork in the trail. The path that goes to the left and up the hill will eventually lead to the top of the Heiligenberg (THINGSTATTE and SAINT MICHAEL’S BASILICA). Take the right or lower of the two tracks. Approximately 300-400 meters up Philosopher’s Way, you will come to a walking patch off the right side of the road. It has called the “SCHLANGENWEG” or “Snake Way”. (BS, CS) #9 on the map. Take a right turn on to Schlangenberg and begin the descent to the River. Caution dangerous. WALK – DO NOT RUN down this pathway. You will eventually exit onto the Neuenheimer Landstrasse (Neuenheim country road) immediately across from the “old” or Karl Theodor Bridge. Cross the street at the pedestrian crossing, and head east to the statue on the east side of the bridge (BS, CS) See #10 on the map. The Statue is of Saint John Nepomuk. He is the patron saint for Heidelberg bridges, and to welcome visitors from all over the world to Heidelberg. The statue was once located near the old two-towered city gate, but was relocated to construct a statue of the man responsible for the construction of the present bridge.

Having spoken of the Bridge, it’s time to walk across it. As you cross from the northern bank heading south, the first statue that you come to on the right is the statue to Pallas Athena, the goddess of wisdom and patron goddess of towns and castles. One has to question Pallas Athena’s effectiveness in protecting Heidelberg; the town, its castle or its bridge has been through lightening strikes, floods, and invading armies. The Nazi Armies of Hitler blew up even the center section of the current stone bridge as late as 1945. This fact you can readily observe, because of the cleaner appearance of the stones used to repair the statue dedicated to Karl Theodore. He had the bridge constructed from 1786-88 to replace the older and mostly wooden bridge. Now one can enter the city under the “BRUECKEN TOR” or “Bridge Gate” (BS, CS), #11 on the map. The Gate was actually part of the cities original medieval fortification, but Karl Theodore added the two-towered gatehouse. The towers have dungeons in them to house felons while the portion above provided the cells of the debtor’s prison. There is a plaque above the portcullis commemorating the defense of the city by the Austrian regiment against the invading French army.

After you pass under the gate, turn to your right (west along the river) for just a few paces and look for the BRASS MONKEY, (BS, CS) #12 on the map, of Heidelberg. It is time to take your cameras out; you or your friend can stick your head into the monkey’s head just behind his nose. Makes a neat picture! This inscription on the monkey liberally means “as you look at me, world (or traveler), don’t laugh to quickly

at me because if you were to look at humanity, or even into a mirror, you just might see something as funny as me.”

After the monkey, head west along the river until you come to a large fortress complex of buildings. Just before you get to the large building that looks a bit like a barn, turn left and go up the street. When you come to what looks like a small parking lot with a rock in the center of it, you have come to the site of the former Jewish Synagogue. This building was destroyed on 9 November 1938, during the infamous “KRISTALNACHT” or “Crystal Night” (BS, CS) see #13 on the map. The rock forms the basis of a unique fountain, for the water never gushes high in the air but rather seeps slowly and quietly over the rock; very much like tears rolling down the cheek. For that reason, some locals have come to call the site the “the Weeping Rock”.

Now go back to the Fortress-like complex of buildings, which are actually part of the “MARSTAL” (BS) #14 on the map. The Marstal served many purposes during its history, which dates back to medieval times when it was actually a part of the town’s old ramparts. Its main purpose was that of any armory, and that includes a portion to house the Elector’s stables. You can enter Marstal and note the modern glass, concrete and metal building located inside. From the outside of the building, one can note the sculpture and ancient finds. You can also sympathize with many students of history, whose anger was stirred by the construction of this ultra modern building in the midst of this antiquity. What makes it so painful is the fact that the building houses the Heidelberg University Department of Archaeology!

Now exit the Marstal from the same entrance you came in. Using the pedestrian crossings available, cross to the Riverside of the road north of the Marstal and work your way east (back toward the old bridge) along the river to the River locks (BS, CS) #15 on the map. Go up on the causeway by the locks and if you have time, watch the operation of the locks which, simply put, resemble an elevator taking boats from a higher river level to lower one or vice versa.

When you have finished at the locks, use the underground pedestrian tunnel to move south to “KARLSTOR” or “Karl’s Gate” (BS, CS) #16 on the map. This gate was once the eastern entrance to the city, and like many other parts of the city, formed part of the ramparts. It was built under the direction of Karl Theodor from 1775 to 1781, almost the same amount of time it took the United States to win their independence from Great Britain. Like other gates to the city, it too, provided a ready-made prison for debtors or criminals.

Okay, let’s head toward the castle. Head west to the crosswalk going back toward the city side of Karl’s Gate. Enter the city on the Hauptstrasse staying on the left side of the street. About 150 meters down the street you will notice a brass plaque on one of the buildings that reads “THURINGIA CHORUS or KORPS” (BS) #17 on the map. When the University is in session a tricolor or quad-colored flag will be flying from the building. This is one of some 37 fraternities, in Heidelberg. An interesting point about some of Heidelberg’s fraternities is that some still practice the rather dangerous sport of dueling. (This is not necessarily true of Crops Thuringia!). One thing the fraternities do have a reputation of unanimity on is their fondness for drinking beer. Many times a given fraternity will go to one particular Gasthaus to do their drinking; you can find the fraternity’s flag flying from that Gasthaus as well as from its residence.

Practically in the same area, at 232 Hauptstrasse is the Bull Haus. The building is one of two mansions belonging to the University of Heidelberg. The other mansion across the street (#235 Hauptstrasse) was built in 1714 and is known as the Palace Weimar. The Palace’s name is derived from Prince William,

(Wilhelm of Weimer) who lived there for many years in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Continue west on Hauptstrasse until you come to "FRIESENBERG". (There is actually a sign that reads "ZUM SCHLOSS" and immediately you will begin climbing up. Within 100-150 meters you'll find yourself on the castle grounds on a path leading up to switchback turns.

CAUTION: If there are older people on the walk take the walk up these switchbacks. Do stay on the path to prevent erosion of the soil. In March 1988, a mudslide 500 meter long occurred and closed the switchback area to the public. The damage may still be visible. When you get to the top of the switchback path, you will be by the northeast corner of the CASTLE (BS, CS) #18 on the map. It is a good time to take a break and catch your breath and appreciate the fact that some armies had to attack up the hill you just walked up! (Even the adult leaders will probably want a breather at this point.

Time to get started again. Keeping the castle to your right, start up the hill and head towards the Palace Gardens; on the east side of the castle (BS) #19 on the map, on the left from the direction you are traveling. Prince Elector Friedrich V, who became known as the "Winter King", installed the Gardens. The Gardens were built in the early 1600's at Friedrich's direction. He had many of the rocks that were in the valley gorge broken up and the deep cut itself filled in. Many beautiful statues were emplaced in the Gardens, similar to the one of "Father Rhine", which is the basis for the fountain that one can see there today. After a short period in the Garden area, head back toward the Castle itself. Stop at the southeast corner of the Castle (BS, CS) #20 on the map, at the "KRAUTTURM" or the "Exploded Tower". One's imagination is not taxed to determine why the tower is nicknamed the "Exploded Tower", for half of the tower, with walls 20 feet thick and a diameter of some 24 meters lies in the moat. It has been there since 1693, when the French, who lobbed a round into the tower that housed the castle's gunpowder supplies, destroyed it. This was their second attempt at it having failed to destroy it in 1689.

Before you go in, you might want to look back over your left shoulder. In late autumn, and through winter, you might be able to see a large white building up on the hill, which looks like a Gasthaus, called the "MOLKENKUR" #21A on the map. Early reports (circa 1225) mention a fortress in Heidelberg. Speculation is that the Molkenkur is on the site of the first Heidelberg castle. The current one is probably a second castle. Later reports (1303) indicate the existence of two castles, one at the present site and one higher up the vicinity on the Molkenkur. The latter provided a much better defense against an attack from the South, but that was not the cause of its destruction in 1537; rather it succumbed to a lightning strike.

At any rate, 1225 saw that start of construction on the Heidelberg Castle, and work on it still continues today (1996). The man who really has the right to call himself the savior of the Heidelberg Castle was "KARL GRAF VON GRAINBERG" who, beginning in 1815, expended his own time, effort and money to restore it. At this time, the castle lay in its greatest ruin, when townspeople were pilfering the castle stones, bricks and other materials to build their own houses and other structures, Von Grainberg even paid guards to keep the pilfering and theft down. His restoration was the direct cause of the beginning of Heidelberg's most lucrative industry, tourism. Once inside the castle, there are indeed many things to see. Even the courtyard itself presents the setting of the presentation of "THE STUDENT PRINCE", an operetta written by a young Austrian composer, Sigmund Romberg, and produced in 1924 in America. The American show was received far more successfully than the original German story it was based on. Some attribute the special feeling many Americans harbor for Heidelberg to this production. Some have gone so far as to suggest this Student Prince induced feelings that led to a kind of "hands off" Heidelberg during the Second World War. Heidelberg, the city, its castle, and environs did in fact suffer little or no severe damage during World War II. But also contributing to this fact was a long-standing good German/American relationship (one of the University buildings built after World War I was built from American contributions). Additionally, a special plea made by a group of city officials on behalf of the city to the attaching American Division Commander was

instrumental. Even this effort came dangerously close to disaster, when American Artillery accidentally fired upon a group of officials, on their way back from a meeting with the US commander. Miraculously no one was hurt and a cease-fire went into effect on Good Friday (3 April 1945). The War was over for Heidelberg this time, breaking a long tradition of being destroyed by invading armies.

Enough straight history for now let us look at some of the things most Scouts find most interesting within the walls of the Castle itself. First there is the steel door ring, containing what legend says are the teeth marks of a witch who tried gaining possession of the Castle. Second, is the footprint embedded in the concrete in the north patio, the large balcony area on the Riverside of the Castle (BS, CS) #22 on the map. Local legend has it that a knight made this footprint as he tried to save his princess from a burning castle. (There are, however, other versions of how the footprint got there). One even culminates in the suggestion that if a Scout truly follows the Scout law, lives up to the Scout Oath, Motto, and Slogan, and has his foot fit the footprint, he will be transformed into a Prince elector and become the owner of the Castle.

Okay, well, on a more realistic story or things to see in the Castle itself. Just off the Castle courtyard is the Apothecary Museum. A small fee is charged and experience was shown that his tour does not go over very well with Scouts of Cub Scout age. There are also English speaking tours available of the inside of several of the Castle buildings. The costs vary, as does the time it takes to complete the tours. There is one last site that does warm the cockles of hearts of all ages a that site is the Great Vat. Built in the inside of several of the buildings. The costs vary, as does the time it takes to complete the tours. There is one last site Karl Theodor, the great Vat is located in the basement of the Friedrich building (signs adequately posted). The Vat was placed under the care of Perkeo, an Austrian dwarf who served as Court Jester and Royal Wine Keeper. It was suggested that Perkeo could drink 18 bottles of wine a day. So fond was he of the "fruit of the vine", that legend says Perkeo died when he took a drink of water instead of his usual glass of wine. Make sure the Scouts check out the timepiece near the Great Vat.

Time to go on with the Hike now by leaving the courtyard area through the main entrance. Turn right, go about 50 meters and walk to the red stone arch, "ELIZABETH'S GATE" (BS, CS) see #23 on the map. This gate is really a story of true love. In 1615 Prince Elector Frederick V, "The Winter King" had this gate built literally overnight, as a gift, as a gift for his 19-year-old English born wife, Elizabeth Stuart.

Well, now it's time to leave the Castle grounds by going west through the small gate near the gift shops. Upon exiting, look for a set of steps off the right. Take the steps down towards the city. A game the Scouts can play on the way down is to count the number of steps. Keep going until you run out of steps. You'll end up near Burgstrasse in the city. If you continue to follow the northerly direction you've been going, you'll end up at Kronmarkt Square. But the Square borders on the Hauptstrasse. When you get to the Hauptstrasse you will see the Rathaus, or City Hall, directly in front. A left turn will have you traveling in a westerly direction again and heading for the Heiliggeist Kirche (BS, carefully for CS) #14 on the map. Prince Elector Ruprecht I laid the cornerstone for the Church in 1400. It became the resting place for the princes of the Palatinate. To this day only Ruprecht 1 and his wife, Elizabeth von Hohenzollern, rest in the church. Invading French forces in 1693 mindlessly destroyed the remaining 54 elector's gravesites. Twelve years later, the dividing wall was constructed in the Church and with the exception of one year (1886 for the 500th anniversary of the University of Heidelberg) the wall remained until 1936 when the Protestants of Heidelberg bought the right to the Church from the Catholics. There are some interesting sites in the Church to include a walk to the belfry for a modest charge of 50pf to 1DM. Come out of the Church and face south. Immediately on the far side built in 1592. An interesting fact that can be called to mind is the method of taxation in Heidelberg's early times. Tax was assessed on a building according to the number of windows and doors that opened onto the main street. Obviously the number of windows the Hotel Ritter presents to the viewer on the Hauptstrasse confirms that its owner, Charles Belier, a Huguenot cloth merchant, was a very wealthy person.

Before you leave the immediate vicinity of the Heiliggeist Kirche and the Hotel Ritter. You'll notice the golden arches of McDonald's by looking slightly east and south... still the cheapest meal in town.

Now that you have something in your stomach, head west on the Hauptstrasse for three blocks. You'll come to Dreikoenigstrasse. At one time it was the only lane in Heidelberg running perpendicular to the Neckar that was called "Strasse" rather than a "Gasse" like the other lanes. Local legend has it that this was a purposeful action on the part of one of the electors, Ruprecht II, and again it was visible evidence of the bigotry that can fester in a community. The street had previously been a "Gasse", Judengasse or Jewish Alley, to be exact. In the early 15th century, Ruprecht II wanted to rid Heidelberg of its Jewish population. He had them relocated to areas outside the city. And in order to ensure they would not return to their former residence, he had the street on which they lived renamed in honor of the Christian feast day for the Epiphany; hence, the name Dreikoenig of Three Kings Street.

Come back out on Augustinerstrasse and head south. At the end of the block, turn right and walk to the end of the building on your right and you'll enter University Square (BS, CS) #27 on the map. Here one sees the famous Lion's Well and, immediately behind the well, the beautifully restored "Old University" building.

From University Square, head south to the corner of Grabenstrasse and Plockstrasse. Looking west on your right, the imposing building is the University Library (BS, CS) #28 on the map. Immediately across Plockstrasse is St Peter's Church, the oldest church in Heidelberg; at least the present structure's predecessor was predating even the Heiliggeist Kirche. If your Scouts can be quiet, a visit inside the library is a true experience.

Now return to the Hauptstrasse again and head west until you come to Theaterplatz. On the southeast corner you'll see a theater building with coat of arms near the second floor window. The coat of arms is that of the Bishop of Worms and the building is the former Wormser Haus (BS, CS) #29 on the map. It was also the residence of the Bishops of Worms whenever they had an occasion to visit to the city. There was a close relationship between Heidelberg's princes and the Bishops of Worms. It was from the latter that the Princes received authority to establish a fiefdom that eventually became Heidelberg, and a school that eventually became its University. Again heading west on the Hauptstrasse, about half a block down from the Wormser Haus, on the right, is the Kurpfälzische Museum (BS) #30 on the map. A visit to the museum could be one of the most meaningful experiences of your Heidelberg tour. It will cost approximately 1DM. You'll see things from a replica of Heidelberg man to religious and secular art paralleling the historical periods of Heidelberg itself.

After your visit, you are within one more stop of the end of your Heidelberg Historical Trail hike. Go west, young man, go west on the Hauptstrasse until you come to open courtyard on the right with a larger than life size statue of a man (BS, CS) #31 on the map. Go to the statue and note the name on the pedestal is Bunsen. Behind the statue is the pharmaceutical laboratory. Bunsen and a colleague named Kirchoff discovered the spectrum analysis, the basic manner in which we identify elements. The Bunsen burner bears his name.

CONGRATULATIONS, you have now completed your Heidelberg Historic Trail Hike. You need only now walk west along the Hauptstrasse until you return to Bismarckplatz, your starting point. You can then take #3 Strassenbahn back to Feuerbachstrasse or the #29 bus to the same stop.

EPILOGUE

A couple of last minute notes to remember to take into consideration:

COST:

Costs inherent to the Hike itself accrue to streetcar/bus transportation. Public Transportation is still relatively inexpensive.

Museum fees really only apply to Boy Scout Troops. Experience has shown that Cub Scout age children do not find the museum tours exciting. There are exceptions and it becomes the adult leader's call.

UNIFORM/DRESS

--all participating Scouts and their leaders are expected to wear their complete Scout uniforms.

CONDUCT:

Hundreds of Scouts walk the Heidelberg Trail each year. However, millions of people from all over the world visit Heidelberg during the same period. In many instances this fleeting experience with American Boy Scouts is the only one visitor may have in their lifetime.

Consequently the Scouts are expected to personify the Scout Law and Oath and conduct themselves accordingly. For obvious reasons walkmans and radios are strongly discouraged.

Remember #1 on the map the Burnett Center, Mark Twain Village Scout Hut no longer exists.

