

## Dream Vacation

02-18-2013 by Harry Zirkelbach



Vacations begin as a dream, that unreachable Idyllic place, no unexpected glitch.

Arrangements are made with no unanswered question, paradise expected.

On day of departure, the sun smiles upon the pampered voyagers.

For the fortunate this might continue for all days of the chosen holiday. Seasoned travelers have made preparations for trouble, beginning with the smallest glitch to complete abandonment by the provider.

Fortunately there is always a current troubled Vacation Cruise to cite.

On a recent week that happens to be a larger-than-life mishap in the gulf of Mexico, to the Carnival Cruise Line, 3,134 passenger Liner Triumph, (how about that for an ironic name?). A small fire knocked out the propulsion system. Then the 1,086 crew members joined the passengers adrift with ship-wide power failure, no sewage disposal system, failure of air-conditioning and heating system, then food disappointments. News reports of the towing of the drifting ship to Mobile Alabama and absence of people comforts, extended the four day cruise of fun and games, to seven, and what might not reach the comforts of third world squalor, under sunshine and tensions that can only be imagined.

These 3,134 tourists will have stories to tell. Carnival nay not be happy to hear their comments, nor probably news from some of their crew. And those with pleasant experience from a past Carnival Cruise dare not brag while in the presence of any of these survivors.

In fact, the most seasoned traveller would be hard pressed to have prepared for the discomforts experienced that February journey. Even possessing your own commode would not help. And the greatest story teller ever, would soon lack friend to talk to, these conditions

Some years ago, my brother-in-law brought wife and children to Denver from the East, food/water for a day, spare parts for every moving part of the auto, neatly packed. All went well. Nothing was needed. But he would have been taxed these seven days on the Triumph, and that happy family today may not have spoken to one another for thirty years. Misery is more than skin deep. It tends to reek forever. Laugh and your life is in danger.

President Obama addressed the Nation while the 4,240 Triumph adventurers drifted in the Gulf of Mexico with nothing else to do. The President's suggestions to increase the economy did not fall on deaf ears to the 54,000 lawyers who will volunteered to represent these wayfarers, bringing them riches galore for cruel punishment, suffering and loss of appetite that week. Experts hint that it is clear, the judgements may not only bankrupt Carnival, but the three Scandinavian countries the ships call home.

And another 14,145 Hollywood entrepreneurs have begun contracts for presenting to the more imaginative of those aboard the Triumph for their Life Story, the epic books plus what is sure fire cinema box-office. More promises of hardly imaginable riches for their discomfort, perhaps a role in the movie, and TV exposure appearance on all but the John Daly and other comedy shows.

All who dream of the perfect dream vacation, have got to be reconsider.

Here, and in the media, fun is poked at this discomfort.

For perspective,  
a moment of reflection.

Salute those men who on a safe ship in the Atlantic, lowered by netting into LCTs and the like, then headed to distant shore, became seasick, felt abandoned, landed on Normandy's soil, fought, and 1,645 American Service men died that June 6, 1944.

Each family would have gladly returned their \$10,000 death benefit to our government for return of their dead hero.

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