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Thursday 24 April 2009 – 3<sup>rd</sup> stage – Mulhouse → Luxembourg

## MECHANICAL TUNE IN THE GRAND DUKEDOM !

The sun is resolutely the Tour Auto Optic 2000's guest star this year; not a cloud on the horizon for the departure from Mulhouse Thursday at dawn. Under escort of the "Garde Républicaine", the competitors went to Firstplan for the first special road stage, before rerunning the famous Turckheim hill climb race. Still sure of themselves, the GT40s made best time in the two specials. Shaun Lynn in the first and Pierre Alain France at Turckheim. Caron and his Cobra were never far behind.

Welcoming participants from all over the world, the Tour Auto Optic 2000 offers the opportunity of discovering exceptional routes and circuits as well as French cultural and culinary heritage. Thursday, they met for lunch in Baccarat, capital of crystal.

After Bresse on Wednesday, a second new circuit awaited the Tour Auto Optic 2000 during the afternoon. Chenevières, close to Lunéville nearly missed seeing the historic cars as the competition homologation had not been accepted. Finally the race was transformed at the last minute into a special stage and the cars were able to attack the track, one at a time; for one or two timed laps. A windfall for the co-pilots in competition category who were allowed to stay in the cars during the two track laps.

The procession drove on towards Luxembourg, third stage of the Tour 2009 where big crowds awaited the cars on their arrival at the Parc Fermé.



RENE PHOTO AGENCY

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