

BERLIN BULLETIN



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1 BW Skill-At-Arms Meeting



Watching the Falling Plate Competition.



The winning team from 'C' (Fire Support) Company.

On Friday, 24 August on a good sunny day, the Battalion held its annual SAAM. With the emphasis on maximum participation teams from each Company shot with SMG, Pistol and Rifle, whilst the team captains argued about the use of suit sights and full water bottles. At the end of the day after a close contest each Company gained honours in one event with the overall shield for the best shooting Company going to 'C' (Fire Support) Company. Other highlights included a Pistol Tile Match with the better scores going to those who rarely handle the pistol. The final winners being a team of potential officers. The competition followed with a Falling Plate Competition which was won by the Sergeants' team. After this event the Competition ended with prizes being presented by the Commanding Officer.



The winning pistol team (left to right): Sgt Reid, Lt Petulej and 2 Lt Cruford.

Avon Youth Brass Band Concert

The Avon Youth Brass Band from Bristol will be visiting Berlin 23-26 August as guests of the Berlin Informationszentrum.

The Band will be playing in Breitscheidplatz near the Blue Church at 1700 hours on Monday, 24 August and would welcome as many British people as possible to the concert, there will not be any charge.

Advanced Further Education Information Service

A FEIS is provided during August and September by your local Careers Service to offer advice after examination results are known. The service is for students who have taken A levels, or equivalent examinations at college.

If you haven't done as well as you hoped, what can you do about it? If you have done better than you expected, how can you make the most of it? Even if your results fit in with your plans, are you absolutely sure you are doing the right thing?

To help you find the answers, AFEIS is operated by local Careers Officers with wide experience in the fields of education and employment and they are aware of all the possibilities open to you. All you have to do is make an appointment for an interview to help you decide what to do next.

Contact Miss J. Revell, Careers Office, Area Education Office, Kingsley Barracks, BFPO 29. Alternatively tel. Minden Mil 5634 or JHQ on 2585.

A Night to Remember

Three (and a bit) One-Act Plays

Those members of the British Garrison who were not able to witness The Gatow Players' recent three and a half one-act plays, certainly missed a night which they would remember! Having been a regular Gatow theatre-goer for the past ten years, I wondered what the production team had devised for the evening and I was certainly not disappointed.

'**A Collier's Tuesday Tea**' produced by Sheila Clarke, had the audience in laughter throughout, where the straight faced cast portrayed a convincing interpretation of the worst that can happen when the worst troupe of 'actors' are in full swing. Marilyn Hutchinson was extremely relaxed and threw away her 'give-away' lines with much skill and effect. Lynn Carey spluttered through her part with confidence, whilst Ian Rowles played his role with vigour, delivering understatement one after the other with both presence and craft. Graham Clark and Dawn Spooner assisted in carrying the sham acting through and John Lowe as Lionel Headbracket made a conscious effort to provide some degree of professionalism to an otherwise tawdry cast! Phil Taylor's PC Boothroyd was sensitively played, having based his portrayal very much on the "evening all" model. John Stocker was appalling as Jed Throttle, which gives some idea just how much the cast carried off beautifully a total contravention of all the rules of stagecraft and vocal as well as visual 'classical' interpretation of a play. Sheila Clarke's Grandma did exactly the right thing: she just got up and walked out!

The time flew by whilst this play by Michael Green was in motion and the audience thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the entire piece, none more so than the routine with the legs dropping off the table one by one. This was a difficult procedure to achieve and it was totally successful due to some remarkable timing and reaction by the cast.

'**A Ritual for Dolls**' produced by Jim Bushnell was positively outstanding and the cast are to be congratulated on displaying such a wide ranging contrast of emotions, voices, tempo, action and interpretation of what is, conceptually, a difficult play to present. Each of the roles was very demanding and Jim Bushnell's ploy to concentrate on the subtle use of voice with character rather than rely on too much movement was a commendable and successful decision. There were many times when the stillness of bodily expression was quite powerful, and in contrast each movement that there was, was full of significance. There was a clever use of simple lighting effects which added to rather than detracted from the development of the piece.

The paths, fear, madness and feelings of despair which underpinned the theme of the play captured the imagination of the audience, mainly because the cast felt and believed in quite strongly the atmosphere which they had created. The pace given to the play by the cast was excellent, as was their timing. Lee Saunders summed up the tension between the players and the audience with great clarity when, as Arabella, she announced: "The atmosphere is electric!" Scenes were created and moved with no scenery

present; conflict, confusion and fear were instilled with no more than mere words and a positively ingeniously inventive and subtle use of a tin drum created a background to simulate and stimulate the tension.

It was impossible and it would be unjust to single out any one or more of the cast for praise because there was such admirable close and professional team work throughout between them. However, Lee Saunders' first appearance in front of a paying audience was quite exceptional. Whatever the difficulties, frustrations and hard work, their team of Lee Saunders, Ian Rowles, Robin Hurst and Jim Bushnell came up against during rehearsals was more than amply rewarded by having taken part in what I consider to be an excellent interpretation of the most touching and moving play ever to be staged at Gatow at least during the last ten years.

Ian Rowles' production of '**Deadline Dawn**' was full of tension from the very first moment the curtain parted, continuing until its dramatic ending. The overbearing heat and tense atmosphere was very well created by an excellently conceived and executed setting, together with skillful lighting. The choice of introductory music to begin the piece was also most apt.

The play itself was very topical, depicting the political and religious conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian situation. Whilst no member of the audience would advocate violence or reasonably explicit language, the cast made the characters and situation so convincing, that the audience did not appear to feel uncomfortable with any of it.

Without doubt, the audience was transported out of the confines of the theatre and into that small attic somewhere in the Middle East. Fiona Fleming and Jim Bushnell as the Palestinian terrorists presented themselves as very tense and complex individuals in direct contrast to the more gently and sensitive characters portrayed by Lynn Carey as the daughter of the Israeli Ambassador, and John Lowe as the priest. The convincing conflict generated between Fiona Fleming and Jim Bushnell was due to their skillful interpretation of these characters and their effective use of voice, in direct contrast to their counterparts.

It is always difficult to simulate both absolute fear and hysterical crying on stage, but Lynn Carey made it look real and presented her plight as distinctly helpless and hopeless. John Lowe possesses a most distinctive voice which he can enviably transpose with great skill through a wide range of emotions and feelings with such swiftness, subtlety and stealth. John Lowe commands attention on stage and proved, through his voice alone, to be an almost formidable character to the terrorists. His execution by Jim Bushnell was distinctly realistic. 'Deadline Dawn' was one of the most convincing productions I have witnessed at The Gatow Theatre and the cast are to be congratulated on their performances.

It is impossible to be at all serious about the final 'half an act' which proved to be The Gatow Players' first attempt to enter into the realm of light, and definitely comic, opera.

It was quite obvious that there could only be one producer of '**'Il Fornicacione**' in its present form, that being the bubbly Marilyn Hutchinson! As promised, the orchestra failed to turn up and thank goodness they did, otherwise the audience might have been bored out of their mind, especially if the characters had all sung in related keys!

As it was, the whole piece was attacked with great gusto, with Fiona Fleming as the Soprano giving it all she'd got in a most appealing operatic fashion as The Countess Formaggio and Dawn Spooner displaying more than her fair share of counterpoints. Ian Rowles as the Counter-Tenor, Alphonso and The Countess' lover, imitated with extreme skill and proficiency the richness and vigour of voice normally associated with one Placido Domingo. Alphonso's caricature of the movements of a typical grandiose opera singer was so close to the real thing as to be utterly believable.

The entire production possessed all the elements of grand experimental opera and certainly set a new standard for the resident opera company at The Deutsche Oper to emulate! There was, however, as some of the audience would be quick to point out, no sight so terrible to behold as the resplendent death position interpreted with much dramatic operatic authenticity, than that which was revealed for all to see, ostensibly, possessed by OC The Gatow Theatre Club, Phil Taylor as The Count Formaggio! Those honoured guests who sat on the front row on the last night were those most moved by the occasion! The Chorus were emphatically enthusiastic about the whole affair and gave much support to the main characters who were either poisoned or killed by stealth. All-in-all, 'Il Fornicacione' lived up to its title and the audience's expectations! What next? **JH**

* * *

After their success with the Three One-Act Plays, the Gatow Players are looking for prospective producers for their next performance in October. If you aspire to be producer and have a particular play in mind, come along to the Theatre Club situated in the Education Centre, RAF Gatow, on Wednesday evening at about 2100 hours. There is a list of potential plays and producers there, and your name will be added to the list. So, if you think you can produce a play of any particular type, come along and join the merry band.

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AUTOS MADE FOR GERMANY

This Week in the Berlin Bulletin

Features

Berlin's 750th Birthday:
Borough Celebrations 20

News and Events

1 BW Skill-At-Arms Meeting 1
Avon Youth Brass Band Concert 1
AFEIS 1
A Night to Remember 2
Surprise Reception in Berlin
for Hinckley Man 3
1 GLOSTERS Sponsored 3
Cycle Ride 5
Notes from FRIS 5
The Jerboa in August 8
Air Trooping and Bus
Timetable for August 22
BFG Youth News 18
News for Book Lovers 8
Berlin Diary 7
Berlin in Brief 17
BFBS Radio Berlin 9

Church

Church Services and Notices 6

Bulletin Board

Wives' Club News etc. 4

Surprise Reception in Berlin for Hinckley Man

A surprise was in store for a Hinckley man, Mr. John Hassall, when he and his wife Beryl, of Westfield Road, paid a return visit to Berlin last week after more than 35 years.

John, now a knitting machine technician with a Barwell firm, was a Sergeant with 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment and at Berlin Signal Squadron between 1948—1951, and was at RAF Gatow throughout the Berlin Airlift, where the couple lived in an Army quarter.

It had always been his dearest wish to re-visit the city but, unbeknown to him, his wife Beryl organised a surprise reception committee from the British Army when the couple re-visited the city.

Beryl had sent a secret SOS to 29 Sig Regt (Berlin), the successors to John's old unit, asking to help in making sure he managed to see all his old haunts.

No sooner had they arrived at Tegel Airport than they found themselves on a fascinating trip down memory lane that took in John's old base at RAF Gatow, a view of the Berlin Wall, a tour of East Berlin, an Army helicopter ride and even a glimpse of their old married quarter.

Word soon got around about this unusual echo of the past and before he knew it, John found himself being interviewed by the British Forces Broadcasting Service and Berlin's daily paper, the Berliner Zeitung.



The present Chief Clerk, WO2 (ORQMS) Tarrant, meets Mr. John Hassall and his wife, Beryl, on their return visit to Berlin.

Said Lieutenant Colonel John Munnery, Commanding Officer of 29 Signal Regiment (Berlin): "We were only too delighted to host them, and it's been fascinating to hear at first hand what it was like here during the Berlin Airlift".

BERLIN BULLETIN

BERLIN DIARY

A look at the news and events in the Berlin Bulletin this week ten, twenty and thirty years ago.

1957

Charlottenburg School Sports Day

The uncertainty of the weather on Wednesday, 24 July did not deter over 300 parents and guests turning up for the Sports Day. The infants' races had only been going for 15 minutes when a heavy splash made everyone dash for shelter. Most of the visitors assembled in the Hall, and the choir, dancing team and an infants class each staged a very good show. Brighter weather enticed us outside again, and the Infants' races were completed and the first half of the Junior Sports.

Brigadier M. W. Roberts, CBE, DSO, then presented the Schools' Shields and Mrs. Roberts presented the prize for the raffle to Major K. Sweeting.

After a Tumbling Show by a team of boys, tea was served, and though the sugar was wet, milk was watery and tea was 'blue', praise must be given to the girls who weathered all complaints and completed their task cheerfully.

In spite of the weather the children acquitted themselves very well and the general impression seems to be 'it was a good show'.

1967

A British Golf Course?

A proposal made some months ago to build a nine-hole golf course for the British Garrison at Royal Air Force Gatow was received very favourably by the British Military Government and Headquarters Royal Air Force Germany, and agreement in principle by the two headquarters has enabled planning to go ahead.

The object of the exercise is to provide a course within the Sector which is more readily accessible than that of the US forces at Wannsee, thus enabling an even greater cross-section of the garrison com-

munity to participate in this increasingly popular recreation activity.

An initial survey has been completed, and where possible work on the site is already in progress; most of this is being carried out by 38 Field Squadron Royal Engineers as a training exercise for new plant operators.

Whilst certain formalities have yet to be completed, and a considerable amount of work is involved in the construction of fees and greens, grading, seeding and the construction of a Club House etc., it is confidently expected that the course will be ready for use by the late summer of 1968.

1977

1 WG Shooting Team — BAOR Championships

1 WG shooting team recently returned to Berlin from Bisley where, at the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting, they carried away the BAOR Trophy — an extremely handsome and very large shield.

This was only the third time in recent years that they have competed at Bisley, and only the second time that it was possible to manage an intensive period of preparation beforehand.

The process of selection began in March with the 'Brigade' Rifle Meeting, where LSgt Bowden of 2 Coy took the honours. It continued at Sennelager during battalion training and was completed at the 1 WG Rifle Meeting.

After a hectic month trying to fit in training around such activities as

the Allied Forces Day Parade, the team departed for England on 1 June for the final run-up to the competition.

Based at Pirbright with the other Household Division teams, they came under the overall control of Maj H. R. Oliver-Bellasis, 1 WG from the Guards Depot, an experienced campaigner at Bisley.

At last came the real thing, the Mecca of all 'gravel-bellies' in the Army!

The overall winners were 2/2 Gurkha Rifles from Church Crookham, and indeed there were five other Gurkha teams in the top seventeen. 1 WG finished twelfth overall, but first of the BAOR teams. Runner-up in the BAOR championship was the Irish Guards team from Munster.





Spangsdorf



Wilmersdorf



Kreuzberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau

Berlin's 750th Birthday: Borough Celebrations

Two boroughs celebrate Berlin's birthday in August: Reinickendorf and Tiergarten. There's a full programme of events for each of the weeks, highlights of which are published below. If you prefer to put aside the official programme and do some of your own exploring, then we've a few ideas for trips too.

Reinickendorf Week 21—30 August

Friday, 21 August, 1700 hours

Ali Tegel

First event of this borough's celebrations is an historic street festival set in the roaring twenties called 'So wie damals' ('Just like it used to be'). It takes place in the charming and cobbled olde worldie part of the shopping complex which leads down to Greenwichpromenade.

U-Bahn: Tegel

Saturday, 22 August, 1000—2200 hours

Sunday, 23 August, 1100—1300 hours

A weekend festival under the motto: 'All Berlin is celebrating — we are, too!' To be found along *Roedernallee* and *Ali-Reinickendorf* until *Residenzstrasse*.

S-Bahn: Wittenau Nord or Reinickendorf

Sunday, 23 August, 1930 hours

Saturday, 29 August 1930 hours

Grounds of Villa Borsig, Reiserwerder

'Serenade am See' (Lakeside Serenade). In secluded surroundings, the Haydn Orchestra of Berlin, under the direction of Helmut Link Werke, plays works by Mozart and Pergolesi for the first concert; Rossini, Haydn and Mozart for the second.

U-Bahn: Tegel, and join special bus at corner of Strasse No 7/Karolinenstrasse.

In bad weather venue changes to Fontane Haus, Wilhelmsruher Damm 142c.

Tuesday, 25 August, 1900 hours

Wednesday, 26 August, 1900 hours

Market Square in front of Fontane Haus (near Märkisches Viertel)

'Literature in the Market Square' — reading and concert.

Saturday, 29 August

Freizeitpark Lübars, Quickborner Strasse, from 1400 hours.

Games Festival

Schäfersee, 2230—0100 hours

The Reinickendorf festival reaches its climax with 'Schäfersee(stunde)', an evening full of romantic impressions and sensations around the



Lübars in Reinickendorf.

Schäfer Lake. Includes a fabulous firework and light show as well as memorable music from the Berlin Oratorio Choir and the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

U-Bahn: Franz-Neumann Platz

Exhibitions

Until 31 October

Heimattmuseum, Ali-Hermsdorf 35

'Fly high . . . you red eagle' Exhibition about the development of Reinickendorf and its links with Berlin.

Open: Wednesday to Sunday 1000—1800 hours

22 August — 20 September

Tegel Public Library

'Tegel' — in photographs, postcards and plans put together by the people themselves.

U-Bahn: Tegel

From 25 August

Fontane Haus, Wilhelmsruher Damm 142c

'Reinickendorf in Picture Cards'

Open: Monday to Friday 1000—1800 hours

Tiergarten Week

30 August — 6 September

Though it may appear, with the historical Jahrmarkt, Sternstunden and the Wasserkorso, that for half of July and the whole of August, Tiergarten is celebrating — in fact its own borough festivities do not begin until the end of this month. Here are some of the highlights.

Friday, 28 August, 2000 hours

Schlosspark Bellevue

'Summer Night's Music' — an open air concert with two grand pianos and seventy percussion instruments. Composers featured include Bach, Hindemith and Crumb.



Schloss Bellevue — residence of the Federal President.



Spangsdorf



Wilmersdorf



Kreuzberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau



Sieglitz



Wilmersdorf



Krenzberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau

Saturday, 29 August, 2000 hours

Schlosspark Bellevue

'Frederick the Great — an Historical Fantasy', First performance of a ballet by Kindertanztheater, Berlin.

U-Bahn Hansaplatz or S-Bahn Bellevue

Wednesday, 2—Sunday, 6 September, from 1000 hours

Around Tiergarten Town Hall

'Turmstrassenfest' — one of the oldest street festivals in Berlin with special entertainments for this special jubilee year.

U-Bahn: Turmstrasse

Tickets and more information about any of the above can be obtained by telephoning 39 05 22 34.

Exhibitions

31 August—30 September

Tiergarten Town Hall, Turmstrasse 35

'From the Electoral Prince's Hunting Ground to a Berlin City-Centre Borough'. History of the Tiergarten with audio-visual displays.

Open daily between 1000 and 1500 hours

U-Bahn: Turmstrasse

1—30 September

Oberstufenzentrum Banken und Versicherungen, Alt-Moabit 10

'Wahlplakate auch mal tierisch'. Over 600 election posters from the last forty years feature in this exhibition.

Open: Monday to Thursday, 0800—1800 hours; Friday, 0800—1300 hours



Nature News

Living in the city of Berlin doesn't mean that you can't find examples of nature or be made aware of environmental issues. Two easy methods of spending time in this way are close to us and each can be combined with a stroll in the neighbouring woods. The one-time Ökowerk site of the Berlin Wasserwerk (Waterworks) at the end of Teufelschausee in the Grunewald, is now an area in which you can learn about nature. Reconstructed ponds teeming with spawn and frogs; sample building bricks, blocks and timbers demonstrating their housing potential

for insects; living organisms thriving in compost heaps and a kitchen garden using only organic fertilizers are all on display in a Rundgang around the grounds. You can peer into the old buildings of the waterwork pumping house or follow a nature trail into the woods past marker boards explaining tree and leaf types.

The nearest car park is at the end of Teufelschausee — on a warm sunny day it may fill up early as people flock to the nearby naturist



Courtyard of Grunewald Hunting Lodge.

sun-bathing area! There are bicycle racks within the Wasserwerk's site if you choose to bicycle to this spot. Entrance is free.

Another option, more geared to identifying trees, birds, butterflies and fungi is the Waldmuseum in the courtyard of Jagdschloss Grunewald. The nearest car park is just off Hüttenweg and a pleasant stroll takes you to the shores of the Grunewaldsee — it's an equally pleasant stroll to go all the way around that lake. There is a small charge to enter the Waldmuseum and it may be worth taking a German dictionary with you to look up some of the words printed on the display boards and work-sheets which guide you around the museum. Buttons to push and displays that light up make this interesting and instructive to children. If Mum and Dad would rather look at paintings and furniture, there's the Jagdschloss to visit together with its display, in a building on the opposite side of the courtyard, of hunting weapons and equipment.

Colonnade Curiosities

The old city centre of Berlin was at one stage surrounded by a fortification — one feature of which was a ditch. The bridges across this ditch were decorated by colonnades — Möhren, Spittel, Königs and Mühlendambrücke. Once the ditch became irrelevant as a safety feature, it was filled in and the land built up leaving the colonnades to be swallowed up — used as building fronts or even demolished. Three of these colonnades can be seen today. Möhrenstrasse, off the Gendarmenmarkt, has a pair of sad looking colonnades that have been overtaken and dominated by the building of which they now form a part. Walk from there down to Leipziger Strasse and see the reconstructed Spittelkonnade — a decorative feature today. The original version was demolished totally in the 1920s, unwanted and regarded as a blockade to full building plans. The protests about the demolition were in vain although the present day reconstruction gives some idea of the original colonnade. Unfortunately, the colonnade on Mühlendam, taken down as early as 1888, was never to re-appear.

The Königs Kolonnade now stands outside of Kleist Park. A substantial feature, it was the King's personal embellishment to the High Court Building that was host to the Allied Control Authority of which the Berlin Air Safety Centre is the only surviving element. Originally it stood on a bridge, and then on the roadside directly next to what is now the Alexanderplatz Bahnhof. It is *not* the colonnade featured in one of the photographs behind the bar in the Officers' Club, that picture is of the national memorial which stood on the banks of the Spree west of the Royal Palace. Whilst you can walk from Möhren Strasse to Leipziger Strasse quite easily it is not an easy walk from there to the colonnade in Kleist Park. However, having driven your car from one location to the other, and found some street-side parking spot, you can have the other half of that stroll through Kleist Park itself.



Sieglitz



Wilmersdorf



Krenzberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



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