

# BERLIN BULLETIN



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## RCT Staff Band and their Travels



*Herr Hering, Deputy Mayor of Spandau, hands over the key of the bus to Maj Speight.*



*The unveiling of new benches at Charlottenburg Station.*

### Grosser Gelber becomes blue

"Grosser Gelber wurde blau" was the headline in the Berliner Morgenpost following press coverage of the RCT Staff Band's first engagement in Berlin on Tuesday, 16 September. "Grosser Gelber" is the affectionate term by which BVG double-decker buses are locally known and the "Grosser Gelber" in question was presented to Maj A. M. Speight, OC 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT by the Deputy Mayor of Spandau, Herr Hering, in recognition of the "multitude of assistance rendered". The bus, now resplendent in RCT blue livery, had completed 700,000 kilometres in its previous life. It was soon pressed into service again. This time for its inaugural run from outside the Rathaus Spandau to York House Officers' Mess where the Squadron treated the Deputy Mayor, councillors and representatives from the BVG to lunch. Meanwhile the band played on; the RCT Staff Band entertained the gathering crowds outside the Rathaus as an appetizer to a concert they were to give later that day in the Neues Kant Gymnasium, Spandau.

### Band Performance

The turn of the band to take the limelight came later in the day when, led by the RCT Director of Music, Capt D. Marshall, they played to an audience of nearly 300 German and Squadron guests in the sumptuous symphony hall loaned by Spandau especially for the event. We were treated to a varied programme from the delights of Wagner through to a medley from the film 'Grease'. The spectacle of the Corps of Drums was well received by our German audience and the triple encore taken by the band was an indication of the success of the evening.

Capt David Marshall won the hearts of his German audience by introducing each stage of the programme in German and ended the evening by conducting the communal singing of "Mein Vater war ein Wandersmann" and other local favourites.

★ ★ ★

Booking for the RCT Staff Band can be made through RHQ RCT Depot, Buller Barracks, Aldershot. The "Grosser Blauer mit Bar" can be booked through the Brigade TCO's Office on 309 72 03.

### Comfort comes to Charlottenburg Station

On day two of their tour the RCT Staff Band and Corps of Drums had a particularly early start at the Charlottenburg Station playing prior to the departure of the British Military Train.

Thanks to the effort of three Berlin organisations, the station now has three benches available for passengers awaiting either arrival or departure of the train.

The project to get the seats started a year ago when, following a clean-up campaign, the Squadron appealed for help in making the platform more comfortable. 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) and the Spandau Youth Club responded to this appeal and have now, along with 62 Tpt & Mov Sqn RCT, presented good quality benches with commemorative plaques to the station.

At a small unveiling ceremony last Wednesday passengers were not only comfortably seated, but were also given a rousing send off by the Staff Band and Corps of Drums.

# Long Service for British Community



Frau Lellau forty years ago.



Congratulations from BMH.



Photo: Army PI

A token thanks for Herr Gruse.

## Frau Lellau

When Hannelore Lellau started work at BMH Berlin in 1947 she didn't expect to stay long.

"For the first six months I hardly understood a word anyone said to me. I didn't think I'd stay for more than a year," she said.

This month Hannelore is celebrating her fortieth year at the hospital and to mark the special anniversary she threw a party for colleagues and friends on Wednesday, 22 September.

Hannelore, a Berliner, had intended to go to a linguistics college but found it had been destroyed when she returned from household service to Berlin after the end of the War.

She began work at the hospital on 1 September, 1947 and despite initial difficulty, quickly became fluent in both written and spoken English.

Hannelore, now personnel clerk, has worked as a confidential secretary, procurement account clerk, in medical administration and has stood in for Chief Clerks.

She has worked under two generations of two families and was described as "invaluable" during the move from the old hospital in Spandau to the current building in Charlottenburg.

The Commanding Officer, Col John Hamer-Phillip, presented Hannelore with a cheque for DM 2,000 in the Officers' Mess on 24 August.

At her party on Wednesday she was presented with a silver and marcasite RAMC crest and flowers. Her colleagues bought her a porcelain vase, flowers and crystal figures to add to her collection.

Previous colleagues have found nothing but the best to say about Hannelore. In a testimonial for her in 1980 Admin Officer Maj G.A. Sunderland wrote: "In the late fifties she worked for my father at the old military hospital in Spandau and even now he speaks of her reliability and competence."

In 1982 Commanding Officer Col T.V. Humphreys said: "Frau Lellau is indeed

one of the great pillars of the hospital — it would be difficult to imagine it functioning without her."

In 1977 Col M.J. Banahan, wrote: "I came to rely completely on her advice and assistance . . . I shall be fortunate indeed if I enjoy the services of her equal again."

In 1970 Col D.D. O'Brien perhaps summed up Hannelore's qualities in one sentence: "She is the perfect secretary."

Congratulations Hannelore!

## Herr Gruse

Herr Gruse recently received a gift from Lt Col Steer, Comd Sup, on his retirement.

Also present at Herr Gruse's farewell was Maj Denholm, OC Ord Depot.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# VOLVO IN STEGLITZ LOCHNER

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# Remember

The clocks in Germany go back one hour on Sunday morning, 27 September.



## 72 Years On — Piper Laidlaw with Grandson



Grandfather and Grandson — in Berlin.

Seventy-two years ago today, 25 September 1915, Piper Laidlaw of the 7th Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Loos. Cpl Law, grandson of Piper Laidlaw, is a

member of 1 KOSB and is a driving instructor in the MT Platoon. Sadly Cpl Law does not play the pipes nor does he intend to learn.

The painting of Piper Laidlaw hangs in the 1 KOSB Officers' Mess and it is a rather unusual way to re-unite grandfather and grandson.

The following is an extract from the London Gazette dated 18 November 1915:

*"For most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos, and Hill 70, on 25 September 1915. During the worst of the bombardment, when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas with absolute coolness and disregard for danger mounted the parapet, marched up and down and played his company out of the trench. The effect of this splendid example was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes until he was wounded."*

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Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau

# Focus on Tiergarten

This week and next, the feature articles will focus on the borough of Tiergarten. The theme in this issue is Tiergarten as one of the major cultural centres within Berlin. Not only is the area around the Philharmonie being specially developed as a culture forum (Kulturforum) but scattered throughout the rest of the borough are many other museums, music venues, galleries, archives, and buildings of architectural interest which all make Tiergarten rich in cultural variety. Naturally, the authorities are keen to promote this aspect of the borough and have collected together all the famous and not so famous cultural centres in a book. 'Gutes vor der Tour: Kunst und Kultur in Tiergarten/Moabit' can be obtained from Tiergarten Townhall, Turmstraße.

## Kulturforum

Tiergarten hosts Berlin's Kulturforum — a cultural centre where prominent museums, galleries, libraries and music halls are clustered together. The idea was the brain-child of architect, Hans Scharoun, at the time when post-war planners were deciding what to make of the desolate land between the Tiergarten park and the Landwehr Canal. Unfortunately, he died before seeing his total concept realized but some of the museums and galleries being built are unlikely to open before the 1990s. The Kulturforum, currently, includes the Philharmonie, Musical Instruments Museum, Art and Craft Museum, National Gallery and State Library.

## The Philharmonie

The first building in the Kulturforum to be erected was the Philharmonic Concert Hall. Opened in 1963, its design was settled in 1956 by an architectural competition which Professor Hans Scharoun won. Its unorthodox shape and style was determined by the idea of music as the focal point and a desire to bring musicians and music lovers together by moving away from the traditional segregation of stage and auditorium. Anyone who has visited the Philharmonie will know that the unity of Man, Music and Space, symbolized by the tripartite pentagon on the centre wall, has been achieved.

The construction of the Philharmonie is, according to publicity material, "intended to represent a landscape with the auditorium as a valley and the orchestra at its bottom surrounded by a sprawling vineyard which climbs the sides of the neighbouring hills. The ceiling, resembling a tent, encounters the landscape as the sky would. Its convex character diffuses the sound at all angles and is dispersed upon the audience like sunshine on the grapes."

Of course it's not only the Concert Hall which is of international repute but the musicians, for whom the hall was built, are also world-renowned. The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1882 after a few rebel musicians decided to leave their old orchestra and form a new one with its own democratic constitution. At first, work and venues were hard to find but, under the direction of Hans von Bülow and after the transformation of a roller skating hall in



The interior of the Philharmonie.

Bernburger Strasse into a fine auditorium with exceptional acoustic qualities, the orchestra rose to fame.

Today's orchestra, under Herbert von Karajan, is so popular that a complicated system of buying tickets (involving at least two early morning trips) has been devised that must test all but the most dedicated followers of Karajan!

## The Chamber Music Hall

The latest of the planned buildings to go up in the Kulturforum, is the Chamber Music Hall. Though not yet complete, the opening night is on 28 October with Herbert von Karajan conducting Vivaldi's Four Seasons!

The design of the Chamber Music Hall by Hans Scharoun, is similar to that of the Philharmonie and the emphasis, once again, is on the music and the relationship between the musicians and the music lovers. The orchestra will be in the centre of the auditorium with the audience, again, seated in a 'vineyard' arrangement around the rostrum.



The Bendler Block now, in part, a memorial centre to those who gave their lives resisting the Nazis.

## Around Tiergarten — other museums and exhibition centres

Though the Kulturforum boasts some of Berlin's best-loved attractions, there are other equally interesting, yet less well-known venues within the borough, worth visiting. Just a few are featured below.

## Bendler Block

Along Stauffenbergstrasse just on the edge of the Kulturforum is the Bendler Block which used to be the Headquarters of the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (Supreme Command of the Armed Forces). It was within these walls that the plot to assassinate Hitler and take over the government of Germany was hatched.

Tragically, the attempt on Hitler's life on 20 July 1944 by Count von Stauffenberg, failed and the coup d'état set in motion had to be abandoned. The main plotters were rounded up, and shot in the courtyard of the Bendler Block. On that spot, today, stands a memorial to the main conspirators: General Olbricht, Count Graf von Stauffenberg, Colonel Mertz von Quirheim and Lieutenant Haeflert.

Part of the building in which these people worked has been turned into a memorial centre with an exhibition entitled 'Resistance against the Nazis'. It's on this second floor that you can see some of the rooms in which the plotters worked as well as documentary evidence on some of the many groups and individuals who opposed Hitler and his regime in the 1930s and 40s.

On arrangement with the centre, you can see the disturbing film of the People's Court (Volksgerichtshof), headed by Roland Freisler, which sentenced 5,000 people to death because of their complicity in the 20 July plot. The film, with its vitriolic attacks and screams by Friesler, is harrowing to watch but gives us just the briefest of glimpses into the terrifying times in which the poor victims lived.

The memorial centre 'Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand' on the second floor of the Bendler Block, Stauffenbergstrasse 13, is open Monday to Friday, from 0900—1700 hours.

(The American Tour Agency, ITT, runs a very informative 'Resistance Tour' which visits the Bendler Block and arranges for the film to be seen).



### Hamburg Railway Station

Just over one hundred years ago the Hamburg Railway Station closed its doors to passengers after less than forty years of service to Berliners and other travellers. In May of this year, after painstaking restoration work, the grand and impressive station was re-opened to the public, but for a journey of a different kind. One which doesn't take you far from the confines of the station but lets you travel through time and see the many ways there once were of getting to Berlin.

'The Journey to Berlin' (Die Reise nach Berlin) starts in a station hall with stacks of suitcases all around; the subdued, blue lighting engenders the anticipation and excitement felt by many travellers before embarkation. Fortunately for us today, we don't have to climb up to the uncomfortable post-chaise to begin our journey, but I suspect many of us would opt for the opulent sleeping and living compartments that the wealthy used when travelling long distances by rail in the 1920s and 30s.

An alternative, just beginning then, was air travel and the exhibition looks at its development in relation to the city and displays mementos of those early flying days from Luft-hansa and BEA.

Car travel, too, is very much in evidence with old Mercedes taking pride of place in the small vintage car section, and a Trabant in the familiar post-war tales of travel to Berlin.

Travelling along transit routes in the 50s and 60s may have seemed a nightmare then but was nothing compared to the 'death journeys' Jews were forced to make out of Berlin under the Nazis. 50,535 victims left Berlin for concentration camps — never to return — and their heart-rending plight is cleverly and effectively represented on a wall covered with grey photocopies of name lists.

'The Journey to Berlin' is a wide-ranging exhibition, not only looking at ways and means of travel to Berlin but how the city appeared to tourists at different times. Audio-visual presentations, photographs and models all help to recreate the captivating atmosphere of old Berlin. To experience it (if you haven't done so already) visit the exhibition which runs until 1 November and costs DM 6 to get in. It is open daily from 1000—1800 hours and until 2000 hours on Fridays. The Hamburg Station is at Invalidenstrasse 50/51; just before the border crossing point into East Berlin. The nearest S-Bahn is Lehrter Bahnhof.

### The story of Stucco at the Berlin Pavillon

"Save our Stucco" was the plea uttered by Berliners in 1962 after many of the surviving decorative façades had been ripped from the outside walls of their homes. The stuccoless streets appeared to them soulless and bare. They had come to understand the value of stucco (mouldings and plaster used to decorate wall surfaces) and wanted to make the town planners aware that the character of the buildings they lived in had disappeared. The uniform grey and brown rendered blocks of flats depressed them;



*Hamburg Railway Station, Berlin, taken about 1920 when the building was already in use as the State Transport and Construction Museum, after passenger traffic had been transferred to the nearby Lehrter Railway Station in 1884.*

they wanted their streets reinvested with light and colour and their homes once again given an individual air. The planners did take note of the cry and began a programme of renovation to nineteenth and twentieth century residential buildings that is continuing to this day.

The previous policy of the planners had much to do with wanting to start afresh after the disastrous Nazi era. People generally wanted to forget the past and removing stucco and rebuilding blocks of flats and shops in a plain style was believed to be a way of obliterating painful memories. As the years went by, however, valuable buildings were destroyed which could have been saved and restored. In Berlin, the Anhalter Bahnhof was demolished beyond repair and the Stadtschloss in the Lustgarten was lost.

With the loss of such buildings attitudes began to alter and buildings which could be retained were, and decorative stucco played an enormous part in the renovation process.

In Berlin, Schloss Charlottenburg is one of the spectacular successes of the stucco experts. It has been restored to its former glory in all its dazzling detail, and it is worth wondering what Berlin would be like without such a testament to its past.

The Kurfürstendamm has also been given back some of its old character by careful use of decorative stucco. Next time you meander along the Ku'damm look up at two fine examples, numbers 48 and 189. Money is provided by the Senate to help restore buildings in certain areas.

Since the early, tentative days many buildings have been restored in Berlin but there is clearly still some way to go to finish the project. West Berlin has around 175,000 blocks of houses and

flats and of these 2,700 are listed buildings or stand in the "Protected Building Areas". Berlin's stucco workers only have the resources to restore twenty to thirty houses to the most elaborate decorative order each year. Obviously, at such a rate we would be well into the twenty-first century before all the buildings were complete. So compromises have had to be made, and simplified forms of the original decorative style used. This plan not only saves money but means more buildings can be restored in some way each year.

### 'Stuck im Berliner Stadtbild' — Exhibition

An exhibition about the use of stucco in the city is running at the Berlin Pavillon. The story of stucco is told in giant sized photographs which are quite fascinating. They compare original buildings (around 1890) with today's restorations. The older photos are also full of people going about their daily business, chatting in crowded streets or hanging about outside shops. The exhibition also gives examples of pieces of stucco used on buildings and gives an insight into how it is made.

Entrance to the exhibition is free and it is open every day (except Mondays) between 1100 and 1900 hours until further notice. A colourful guidebook may be purchased for DM 5 at the information desk but, unfortunately, it is only in German. Hot and cold snacks are available from the large Kneipe inside the Pavillon.

The thirty year old Pavillon is situated near the Tiergarten and along 17 Juni Strasse. The nearest U-Bahn stations are Ernst-Reuter-Platz and Hansaplatz. However, most convenient is the S-Bahn, Line 1, which stops at the Tiergarten station just behind the Pavillon.

Cathryn Wilcock



*What a difference the Stucco makes!*

# BERLIN BULLETIN

## BERLIN DIARY

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

### 1957

#### Visit of General Sir Roy Bucher

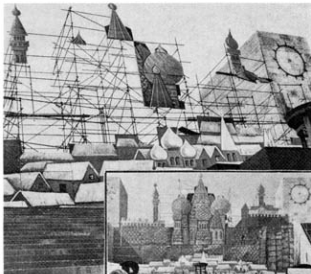
During an intensive lecture tour of Germany General Sir Roy Bucher, KBE, CB, MC, the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the British Legion, accompanied by Lady Bucher, visited Berlin between 21 and 24 September to address young soldiers, about to leave the service, on the aims and work of the British Legion.

The Legion is organised on strictly non-party democratic lines. In the difficult years after the 1914 war, when there were four ex-service organisations each affiliated to different political parties and each fighting the other and getting nowhere, the idea of a national organisation was conceived by a Gunner — Gunner Lister. He approached Field Marshal Haig, who refused to accept his Earldom until the troops who had served under him had received justice, and between them they managed, not without great difficulty, to co-ordinate the four organisations. The British Legion was granted its Royal Charter in 1921. Since then we have spent over £28m of public funds for the benefit of ex-service people and their families or widows.

Membership subscriptions maintain a very efficient Executive Organisation in London which has dealt with, and continues to deal successfully with, the innumerable problems of ex-servicemen. It is not necessary to be a member of the Legion to obtain these benefits. The only qualification necessary is to be an ex-service man or woman, or a dependent. In fact, of every ten people helped, only two are members. Many of the benefits which ex-servicemen now obtain as their right under the Law were bitterly fought for by the British Legion. As an example, it was formerly necessary for a disabled ex-serviceman to prove that his earning power was reduced before he could receive a pension. Now he receives his pension as a right, no matter whether his injury was a result of active service or a peace-time accident.

### 1967

#### Behind the scenes at the Berlin Tattoo



'Moscow' — before and after the storm.

The principal organisers (under the direction of the GOC and Brigade Commander) for this year's Tattoo were Capt Parker (Artistic Director), Lt Col Jaeger (Director of Music) and Maj Hutton (DAAG). Since early March, this committee has been meeting in England and Berlin planning the Tattoo in more detail as the months went by. Maj Inglis, the previous DAAG, had done a lot of planning in the early stages. On a hot July Sunday afternoon, on the Dorset House lawn with a liberal supply of Pimms, the committee finished its planning and we issued our detailed instructions. WO2 Sidebottom and the 'A' Branch clerks will remember working overtime.

SSgt Elliot and Sappers of 38 Fd Sqn RE set to work building 'Moscow'. Poor Sappers — it blew down and they had to rebuild it for the last performance. Other engineers' jobs were the fireworks, searchlights and laying the planking over the athletics track. This took eighty men four days, and men from the Battalions helped. Area Office MPBW took on other construction jobs under the experienced hand of Mr. Harold Morris, while WO2 Burley handled Capt Parker's exacting demands for extra lighting, arc lights, coloured lights, cue lights, bib lights, light battens, flickering lights and any number of others. We dread the bill for cable!

### 1977

#### Cross-Country Motor Cycling

The thrill and excitement of cross-country motor cycling is captured here in our pictures of Berlin Field Force Motor Cycle Trial. There were 65 riders from Berlin and BAOR in this year's trials which took place in the Grunewald between 14 and 16 September, organised by 62 Tpt & Mov Sqn RCT. The BAOR riders rode BSA 40s and the Berlin riders Hercules 125s. After some strict scrutineering, the competitors started the observed sections course. This involved riding their bikes through ten very difficult hazards without stopping or putting their feet down, attempting each hazard four times.



The thrills . . .



. . . and spills.