

BERLIN BULLETIN



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Of Playwright and Politicians . . .



The Band of 1 KOSB attempt to revive the ghost of Banquo . . . or maybe the Bard.

William Shakespeare

Last Friday Shakespeareplatz was officially opened. The setting was reminiscent of one of Shakespeare's own scenes with music (kindly provided by 1 KOSB), expectant crowds, and a shrouded statue. Yet this was no 'Winter's Tale' rather, with sunshine and blustery winds, a story being made in late summer.

Three tellers unravelled the strands. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir David Rowe-Ham GBE,

presented a bust of the bard to Berlin from the City of London and remarked upon the fitting position of the square, directly opposite the Deutsche Oper, where many of Shakespeare's scenes are recreated. Herr Balduur Ubbelohde, Mayor of Charlottenburg, graciously accepted the gift and related how "To be or not to be?" was no longer a question in Berlin. Shakespeare, one of the world's great playwrights, was now

represented in one of the world's great cities. Governing Mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, told of his thanks and invited the Lord Mayor of London to derobe the dramatist.

The excited crowd waited expectantly. No, the statue didn't start to stir but the bronze bust of the bard was revealed.

Our summer story is complete but the spirit of Shakespeare breathes on in Berlin.



After the unveiling, the Governing Mayor says a few words of thanks "Friends, Romans, Countrymen . . ."



A warm welcome for the Prime Minister.

Margaret Thatcher

The Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, visited Berlin last Thursday and Friday to attend the Conference of the International Democratic Union held at the Reichstag. Mrs. Thatcher flew into RAF Gatow by RAF BAe 125 on Thursday afternoon and was greeted on her arrival by Major General



Meeting well-wishers at Gatow.

and Mrs. Patrick Brooking (British Commandant) and Group Captain and Mrs. Peter Eustace (Station Commander, RAF Gatow).

After inspecting the Guard of Honour provided by the RAF Queen's Colour Squadron



Mrs. Thatcher inspects the Guard of Honour.

(commanded by Sqd Ldr Mike Eveleigh) accompanied by the Band of the King's Own Scottish Borderers (Bandmaster: WO1 Chapman), the Prime Minister spoke with many of the spectators who had waited through several showers of rain to see her.

On her departure on Friday evening the Prime Minister was presented with a bouquet of flowers by SACW Katrina Hawkins.

Around the Units — RAF Gatow

Fun Day



RAF Gatow Fun Day Superteam winners — F Troop, 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt.

By kind permission of the Station Commander, Gp Capt P. H. Eustace, a "Fun Day" was held at RAF Gatow on Sunday, 13 September. Despite an overcast day with intermittent periods of light rain, the mild temperature ensured that proceedings were not spoilt.

Set before a large crowd of spectators, the focal point of the day was a Superteam competition in which twenty teams, each of eight members drawn from various sections around the station, competed for the Express Travel Fun Day perpetual challenge shield. Two members from each team entered the swimming, archery, rifle shoot and cycling events and then a team effort was required for the Novelty Knockout event. In the knock-out, they had to negotiate a series of obstacles and perform certain tasks e.g. dribble a rugby ball around cones, crawl under a net, climb into a large tank of water to retrieve objects etc. Easy? Perhaps not when you consider that the eight team members were tied together and racing against the clock! Out thanks go to Sgt Bob Lucas who, on his own initiative, decided to add a bit of spice to the course by spraying teams with water.

Besides the Superteam competition, the day also provided a rare opportunity for clubs and activity groups from the station to raise funds for themselves and charity. This was achieved by the setting up of stalls and sideshows which collectively appealed to all age groups! As there is little space to thank participants, sponsors and helpers individually, the organisers offer a huge 'thank you' to everyone involved for making the Fun Day such an enormous success.

Annual Cocktail Party

RAF Gatow's Officers' Mess held its annual cocktail party on 23 September in The Havel School.

In keeping with Berlin's Jubilee Year it was decided to make this year's cocktail party a particularly special occasion. The RAF Germany Band was brought from Rheindahlen to provide music and the Queen's Colour Squadron was flown out from the UK to give a drill display. But, the really special aspect of this year's party

was that all former station commanders of RAF Gatow were invited to attend, and five were able to accept.

Group Captain Bobby Oxspring was the CO of RAF Gatow from 1965 to 1967. He had flown Spitfires throughout the war and had fought in the Battle of Britain. Whilst stationed at RAF Gatow he was involved in a political 'hornets' nest' when a Soviet jet crashed into the Havel and his crew were killed. The Soviets immediately sent an armed task force to make the recovery but they were beaten to the scene by Bobby Oxspring and his men who told them to 'go away' or something to that effect! The Soviets went away again leaving the RAF to make the recovery.

Group Captain Howard Lewis was Station Commander at RAF Gatow from 1967 to 1970. During his tour the station opened its gates to the public for the first time since the war when the first RAF Gatow Open Day was held. Over 60,000 people attended and as they made their way towards Gatower Strasse many of the roads in south-west Berlin were brought to a standstill.



Pictured (left to right) are: Group Captain Bobby Oxspring, Group Captain Howard Lewis, Air Vice-Marshal Robson, Air Commodore Loveridge, Group Captain Arnold and RAF Gatow's present CO, Group Captain Eustace.

Air Vice-Marshal Robson was the CO at RAF Gatow from 1978 to 1980. He is well remembered by many still serving at Gatow for his attention to physical fitness and his enthusiasm for cycling everywhere with the CO's pennant flying on the front mud-guard!

Air Commodore Loveridge and Group Captain Arnold served as station commanders at RAF Gatow from 1982 to 1985 and 1985 to 1987 respectively. They have since moved on to postings back in the UK where Air Commodore Loveridge is serving at HQ Support Command and Group Captain Arnold is serving at the MOD.

At the cocktail party the former station commanders were able to make contact with many ex-colleagues and friends whom they had not seen for many years. And, with hosts wearing pale blue carnations in keep-

ing with the 'light blue' theme of the evening and the Inter-Continental Hotel catering superbly, the social part of the party provided a good warm-up to the grand finale with music and a drill display.

'Old Timers' Rally



Photo: J. Hobbs

Gp Capt Eustace and Niels Niessen meet at the 3rd International Veterans Motorcycle Rally.

The Third International Veterans Motorcycle Rally took place in Berlin last Saturday. Fifty-eight proud owners of motorcycles built between 1916 and 1945 finished the rally at RAF Gatow.

During the event Station Commander, RAF Gatow Gp Capt Peter Eustace met Niels Palle Nielsen from Nyborg in Denmark who drove a 1928 Nimbus 746 cc, 7 HP.

Cook 'n' Serve

Cpl Pauline Young and SAC Steve Higgs recently received certificates from the Station Commander RAF Gatow, Gp Capt Peter Eustace.

The certificates were awarded to them for being the runners-up in the RAF Germany 'Cook and Serve' competition held at RAF Rheindahlen in August.

Cpl Young and SAC Higgs will now represent Royal Air Force Germany in the RAF Culinary Competition to be held at Aldershot in October.



Photo: W. Mulha

Cpl Young and SAC Higgs are congratulated on their success at the Cook and Serve competition held in August.

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Send articles for inclusion to: Berlin Bulletin, HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade, BFPO 45.

Departure of Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Martin Farndale, bade farewell to the Army in Berlin when he paid a brief visit last weekend.

The C-in-C, who was accompanied by Lady Farndale, was hosted to a farewell dinner at London Block on Sunday evening by the GOC, Maj Gen P.G. Brooking, MBE, and the Minister, Mr. M.St.E. Burton, CVO. Some two hundred guests represented all British units in the City.

Gen Farndale left Berlin mid-morning on Monday. He relinquishes command in BAOR on 30 October.



Farewell to the Army in Berlin.

Photo: Army PR

Visit of Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering



DGEME discusses textile repair with 'the' Michael Jackson.

Over the weekend of 19/20 September, Major General J. Boyne, in his capacity as Chairman of Combined Services Football, visited Berlin to watch his team's very successful tour. As Terry Wogan would put it, however, General Boyne also has a day-job, as Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. In this capacity he found time on Monday to visit some of his REME soldiers stationed in Berlin.

Time being short it was difficult for him to visit more than a few outposts, including 14/20 H LAD. There he must have wondered exactly which REME unit he was visiting as every second person to whom he was introduced appeared to be a stand-in for the local REME, SSgt Clarke having taken a number of the REME regulars away on adventurous training. After listening to a number of requests for the temporary attachments to be made permanent General Boyne continued to 14 Berlin Fd Wksp REME.

There he was able to meet a large number of the civilian and military staff who keep the Garrison's equipment on the road. Amongst other sights, he inspected the Workshop's primary means of de-



Photos: W. Dune

Presentation of 'the Wall'.

fence, a pre WW2 Czech artillery piece of indeterminate history. Photographic evidence shows it to have been under the workshop's flag circa 1946 but time and weather had taken its toll and the gun had been relegated to a rusty heap. Newly restored by the Workshop it now occupies its former location, resplendent with Brigade and Workshop transfers. It was a shame, as the General pointed out, that the Workshop had marginally changed its name since unit vehicle transfers stopped being applied. But what's a parenthesis more or less to a gun that started off being owned by 8 line of Communications Workshops and has seen its change over title six times since?

After his tour of the Workshop, General Boyne retired to Alexander Barracks Sergeants' Mess for lunch where all available REME senior ranks in Berlin had gathered. In an impressive tour de force the General was able to speak to almost everyone gathered in the Mess.

Prior to the General departing, the OC presented him with a brass model of a portion of the Berlin Wall, complete with watchtower, to mark the occasion of his last visit to Berlin as DGEME.

Celebration of 1000 Flying Hours

Sgt Chris Maddison, a Gazelle pilot from 664 Sqn AAC Minden, achieved his 1000 flying hours last week, whilst on temporary attachment to 7 Flt AAC.

After landing from the flight on 24 September, Sgt Maddison was met by members of 7 Flt AAC and given a well-earned glass of champagne, followed by a hosing down with Berlin water, a tradition in the Army Air Corps.

After drying off he was invited to attend a 'Happy Hour' in the Flight Bar.



Photo: B. Parkinson

Sgt Maddison enjoys a celebratory drink after completing 1000 flying hours.

Berlin in Brief

A news round-up from the Berlin Press

The International Democratic Union conference held last week in the Reichstag expressed its satisfaction, on the whole, with the forthcoming INF agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, the meeting of Conservative party leaders also pointed out that agreement must be reached about conventional weapons and that the Soviet Union was ahead in both fields.

A "Berlin statement" was issued in which conference came out in favour of further reductions in the sphere of short-range missiles as well as for a wider range of confidence-building measures in Europe. British Prime Minister Thatcher told a press conference that the nuclear deterrent was the best way to ensure peace in Europe and that the Europeans must continue to rely on their own nuclear weapons and on those of the US stationed here. Federal Chancellor Kohl said that East Bloc superiority was ten-fold where chemical weapons were concerned and that negotiations must, therefore, be extended to other types of arms. However, Herr Kohl, Mrs. Thatcher and Monsieur Chirac agreed that efforts towards disarmament must continue and that the Western alliance needed a joint strategy. According to the "Berlin statement", the division of Germany and Europe is a key question when it comes to peace and freedom in Europe and Berlin is a challenge to overcome this division.

Morgenpost commented that never in its post-war history had Berlin seen so many high-powered politicians in one go and that this was the second significant contribution by Chancellor Kohl to Jubilee Year, apart from the German History Museum. The paper thought that Kohl was open to criticism but that his Berlin commitment was beyond reproach.

West Berliners will be able to vote on 18 and 19 October about which type of S-Bahn train they prefer. The choice is between two versions, one in the traditional red and yellow livery, the other in crystal blue. BVG ballot papers will be appearing in the local papers and 50 prizes can be won.

A successful escape attempt took place at Berlin's inner city boundary last weekend. Two young men from the GDR swam the Landwehr Canal and reached West Berlin safely. Bild Zeitung reported that, before their swim, the two climbed down from a factory roof with the aid of a rope.

Another escape attempt by a man and a woman from the GDR failed late on Friday night at the Wall within West Berlin's Zehlendorf district. Eye witnesses reported that a car got stuck in the boundary fortifications and that the two were caught while trying to scramble to safety. No shots were fired.

A 74-year old former SS officer was sentenced by a court at Dresden in the GDR to a life prison term after he was found guilty of taking part in the killing of 720 Jewish



citizens from Dresden and surrounding areas. The verdict is based on a ruling by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, the GDR Constitution and its criminal law as well as on a UN Convention, which rules out the statute of limitation for Nazi and war crimes.

The official founding ceremony for Berlin's German History Museum is due to take place on 28 October in the Reichstag in the presence of 750 guests.

Morgenpost's top item on Tuesday dealt with the shock news that the head of the computer accounting department of the local cleansing department (BSR), who disappeared recently after an attempted computer fraud, was sentenced in 1963 to 15 years imprisonment for murder and robbery. Siegfried Semberg was released in 1971 and started his meteoric rise up the career ladder.

Pan Am Express airlines, which is to start operations in Berlin on 2 November, received permission from the Allied air attaches for flights to Stockholm, Kiel, Innsbruck and Zurich.

Federal Post and Telecommunications Minister, Schwarz-Schilling, in East Berlin touched upon the subject of what he described as the very unsatisfactory telephone service between the two German states. The Minister also told journalists that this topic is to be dealt with early next year by a committee of experts.

A leading member of the GDR Post Office announced major improvements to the East Berlin telephone service, which will include five new telephone exchanges up until 1990. Eleven exchanges are to be re-constructed and extended.

Two 17-year old local lads were caught on Saturday night after pouring paint over the newly erected Shakespeare bust on

Shakespeareplatz. The bust was also sprayed with black lacquer.

The chairman of the local Trade Union Federation (DGB) Michael Pagels, has issued demands for new Berlin media regulations. Herr Pagels said that the cable TV project ought to be abandoned since it had proved to be an utter failure. He went on to say that a new media law should include safety guarantees for the continued existence of the established ARD and ZDF networks vis-à-vis the private TV companies. There should also be, according to Pagels, a financial guarantee for SFB.

The Socialist members of the Paris city council together with SPD MPs in Berlin have been working on proposals to shape the Paris/Berlin friendship agreement of 2 July 1987. Both groups issued a final statement at the end of a five-day visit to Berlin by the French parliamentarians, in which they favoured increased cultural connections between the two cities.

Turkish Prime Minister Özal arrived in Berlin last Thursday for a five-day visit, which included the International Democratic Union (IDU) conference. After signing the city's Golden Book, Mr. Özal made a speech in which he described Berlin as a clear symbol of the division of Europe. He also paid tribute to the contribution by the Turkish community in Berlin (which numbers some 115,000). A protest against the visit was mounted by a group of some 35 Turkish and Kurdish nationals, who turned up at the CDU party offices. The group peacefully protested for some 15 minutes, saying that there were around 13,000 political prisoners in Turkish jails and that torturing was common practice. The group dispersed after a CDU official promised to pass a letter of protest to the Federal Chancellor.

The Federal Cabinet has established the pre-requisites for the introduction of the "Euro passport" to take effect from 1 January 1988. The document will be coloured Burgundy red and it will cost DM 30.

The Senate will be setting aside DM 1.5 million next year to help with the work of four local AIDS self-help groups. This will be on a permanent basis.

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conveniently situated garage. (Around the corner from Spandau NAAFI)

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★ ★ ★ Fuel and Your Car (1) ★ ★ ★

In part of Fuel and Your Car we look at the different types of fuel available to you, the motorist, and how they affect your vehicle.

Petrol and what it has to do

Petrol has to contain a combination of properties suitable for use in car engines. It has to be volatile (that is, it must vaporize easily) to give trouble-free starting in cold weather and warm-up quickly with little use of the choke. Petrol must also be resistant to detonation (evidenced by a noise known as knocking or pinking). Knocking occurs when a car is using a grade of petrol that is too low in octane, e.g. a car designed to run on super or 5 star is being run on benzin or 2 star petrol. Continuous use of a low octane fuel will overheat the piston and eventually burn a hole in it. Almost any fault that increases temperature within the engine above the normal working temperature will result in an increased octane number requirement. Soluble additives are used to raise the octane number of petrol, these soluble additives contain lead.

Your Car and Star/Octane Ratings

Petrol's octane number is determined by matching the petrol against a mixture of two petroleum fluids. The octane number given to petrol sold at garages in Britain comes under a British Standard 'star rating' system which is as follows:

Star	Octane Number
**	min 90*
***	min 94*

**** min 97*
***** min 100*

Petrol is a very complex mixture of hydrocarbons and the octane number is only one of a number of characteristics that effect its behaviour in engines. The octane requirement of an engine will also vary with time and mileage, due to the gradual build-up of carbon in the combustion chambers. The best course is to follow the octane recommendation of the car manufacturer. There is no disadvantage in using a petrol with a higher octane number than required. You may find the engine will run slightly hot, but the difference will be so insignificant that it probably will not register on your temperature gauge. A slight timing adjustment may also be required.

Unleaded Fuel — the superior alternative

Almost all cars can be run on unleaded petrol with all its ecological advantages and benefits to yourself. Unleaded petrol protects the environment as it does not contain any unhealthy heavy metals. Unleaded petrol protects your purse, as it is cheaper than leaded fuel. Unleaded petrol also protects your car's spark plug and exhaust system, as it con-

tains fewer corrosive additives than leaded fuel.

Should you try unleaded petrol?

The ADAC has released a comprehensive list of various makes and models of cars which will take unleaded petrol either without any problems at all or with minor adjustments to your engine. These minor adjustments vary, from retarding the timing by 2 or 3 degrees or adjusting the ignition, to fitting stronger cylinder head gaskets. So, if you want to use lead-free petrol in your car, ask what adjustments are necessary at your local dealer or for a general enquiry contact the Brigade Master Driver on 309 72 65.

There are two types of lead-free petrol on general sale, normal bleifrei, which is equivalent to a 2 star petrol with an octane number of 91* and bleifrei super with an octane number of 95*.

Catalytic Converter and lead-free petrol

A catalytic converter is fitted to a car's exhaust system. You will find them mainly fitted to cars designed to run on lead-free petrol. Simply, the catalytic converter disperses carbon monoxide and other harmful chemical products from the car's exhaust.

Next week: Phasing out of leaded fuel.



Spandau



Wilmersdorf



Kreuzberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau

Focus on Tiergarten (2)

This week we take a second look at Tiergarten and include an interview with Mayor Dieter Ernst. The article concludes our series of reports about the boroughs within the British Sector of Berlin.

Brief History

Unlike most of the other boroughs within Berlin, Tiergarten did not develop from a small village into the busy residential and recreational borough that we know today. It began life, as its name suggests (Tiergarten — animal park), as a large forest outside the twin-towns of Berlin and Colln and from the sixteenth century it became the hunting ground of the Electors. Gradually, the Tiergarten was turned into a natural park by successive Kings who all made their personal mark on the park.

As the Tiergarten took shape so did communities nearby (Moabit 1716; Schöneberger Vorstadt 1840; Hansaplatz 1885) and by the time that Tiergarten was incorporated into Greater Berlin in 1920, 300,000 people lived within the borough which then included some areas now in Schöneberg. Tiergarten was second only in importance to Berlin-Mitte and was a popular residential area for the nobility as well as the place where most embassies were concentrated.

The borough was devastated during the second World War and sustained the worst damages within, what is now, West Berlin with over fifty percent being razed to the ground.

The park itself was similarly blighted. Those trees which did, however, survive the bombing were later chopped down and used for fuel and the land used as a large vegetable garden.

As times changed for the better so did the fate of the park and in March 1949 it was replanted with new shrubs and trees. It began to take shape as the Tiergarten we know today.

The process of restoration was not confined to the park. The nearby Hansaviertel, for example, became the setting for the International Building Exhibition in 1957 and fifty-four architects from thirteen countries designed houses, flats, schools, community buildings and leisure areas which were all intended to be the models par excellence for future inner-city development.

With the division of Berlin in 1961 Tiergarten lost some of its former importance as a residential area and planners tended then to concentrate on using land within the borough to provide leisure amenities for the whole of Berlin. Yet some pre-war buildings remained which were attractive to socially disadvantaged groups who could afford the low rents. Today, such groups, including a high proportion of foreigners, give the borough an overloaded infrastructure. Problems are being alleviated and the building of better homes for families has become a priority within the borough.

Coat of Arms

Tiergarten's coat of arms is a testimony to its early life as a hunting ground. A stag is set in the



middle of a green clover field. At the top of the shield is a mural crown with three towers and the Bear, symbol of Berlin, stands in the centre.

Mayor of Tiergarten

For most of us the Tiergarten means the largest park in West Berlin, divided by the roads converging at the Victory Column, but the name does refer to more than the park. The grounds which once lay a long way outside the centre of Berlin and were used for hunting by courtiers and princes, became part of and gave their name to one of the boroughs within Greater Berlin. Since 1945 Tiergarten has been in the British Sector.

Mayor of this small (13.4 km²) but quite densely populated (93,000) borough is Herr Dieter Ernst. He is a Berliner who, besides being in



Herr Dieter Ernst.

charge of administration functions at the Town Hall, is also elected to oversee the concerns of the many people within the contrasting areas of the borough. Tiergarten comprises: the industrialised 'island' of Moabit (so named, after the biblical land of Moabit, by the Huguenots who settled in that part of town after 1716); the Tiergarten itself, with the Hansaviertel (the famous post-war housing area) to the north; and Tiergarten-South which stretches as far as the Kurfürstenstrasse and includes the Zoo and Kulturforum.

Though Tiergarten is relatively small (Spandau is six times as large) it does contain some of Berlin's most famous and best-loved attractions: the Victory Column, Congress Hall, Reichstag and Philharmonic Concert Hall are all within its boundaries and bring thousands of tourists into the city each year. Herr Ernst is naturally pleased at such popularity yet, at the same time, feels this is something of a mixed blessing. More people and more traffic bring more pollution problems and extra demands for local amenities. Thus what is good for the city is not necessarily good for the borough.

This happens to be the case with the Tiergarten park itself, which acts as a large recreation area for the whole of Berlin. Understandably, vegetation is at risk with large numbers of people spending Sunday afternoons sauntering along the paths or grilling in the parks. The popular summer Jahrmarkt, visited by tourists and Berliners alike, posed particular problems for the borough with roads being closed off and damaged. It is for such reasons that the Mayor would not like to see too many more city amenities placed within the Tiergarten's boundaries. The borough would then cease to be a residential area and, instead, become a recreational retreat.

Herr Ernst recommends people see some of the sights in the borough which, although not well-known, are nevertheless most essential for the well-being of Berlin. In the Moabit district is the Westhafen (harbour) where two-thirds of all Berlin's goods are delivered. The harbour, built between 1914 and 1927, deals with bulk goods such as oil, coal, building materials and grain. Since 1981 it has had a heavy-lifting crane which can move individual loads of 250 tonnes, and for transporting lighter goods around the site, 17 kilometres of railway lines are used.

Almost next door to the harbour is the huge meat and vegetable market, opened in 1965. Under its roof staggering statistics are made: in the vegetable market fifty-four wholesalers trade 121,000 tonnes of fruit and 135,000 tonnes of vegetables each year whilst in the meat hall another forty-nine wholesalers dispose of 90,000 tonnes of meat to hungry city dwellers! Watching the trading reminds you that Berlin is not just a city living off its past glory, but a thriving centre very much with both feet in the present.



This current prosperity, Mayor Ernst states, is one result of the Allies' continued presence in Berlin. He is pleased that through the 750th Anniversary celebrations, ordinary people have once again focussed on the Allied role within the city. This, he believes, is largely due to the participation of the protecting powers in Berlin's birthday, exemplified by the visits of the British Royal Family and the American and French Heads of State.

At a more local level, the borough of Tiergarten enjoys excellent relations with military personnel stationed here. The Friendship Day is always a success and provides a good opportunity for Berliners to get to know their British friends. Herr Ernst wishes, however, that there were more regular chances for German and British people to get together, though he admits a good start has been made in this direction with the exchanges between the Tiergarten school, Fontane-Oberschule, The Havel School. He hopes the future will bring further contacts between the Berliners and the British.

Another wish that Mayor Ernst has for the future, in common with the other mayors within the British Sector, is that the Wall will one day come down but without any loss of freedom for West Berliners and with the same quality of life maintained.

Around Tiergarten

Victory Column

On a clear day the golden lady of the Victory Column seems to beckon you along Kaiserdamm and Strasse des 17. Juni. She is Victoria, eight metres tall, and has something of a weight problem at forty tons! She stands on the column which was built between 1865—1873 to commemorate victorious campaigns over Denmark in 1864, Austria in 1866 and France in 1870—71.

The Victory Column today is 69 metres high and to reach the highest viewing platform you need plenty of energy and stamina as there are 285 steps to climb. Once at the top, there are splendid views in all directions and as it is the nearest high spot to East Berlin views across there are particularly good on a clear day. The Siegesäule is perhaps not the best viewing platform for mild vertigo sufferers as the protective grilling comes down to your feet and offers an unsettling vision of the toy cars below!

Viewing times: Mondays 1300—1800 hours

Tuesday—Sunday

0900—1800 hours

DM 1.20

Cost:
Transport:
U-Bahn Hansaplatz,
S-Bahn Tiergarten or Bellevue

The Congress Hall

Earlier this year one of Berlin's most remarkable buildings reopened its doors after almost seven years of lying in a state of disrepair. Once again, Berliners and tourists alike can visit exhibitions and functions in the Congress Hall, as well as enjoy its pleasant situation next to the Spree and sit alongside its attractive approaches.

The Congress Hall is still known by its original nickname, of 'pregnant oyster', for obvious reasons!

The Congress Centre was financed by the Americans (Benjamin Franklin Foundation) and was their contribution to the International Building Exhibition of 1957. Hugh Stubbins, and architects from Boston, worked with German experts, Werner Duetmann and Franz Mocken on the design which included a re-inforced concrete ring roof. The Congress Hall became the setting for many dramatic productions, gala evenings, meetings and international conferences.

On 21 May 1980, shortly before a meeting was due to begin, the roof caved in. One radio reporter lost his life in the disaster. Recriminations began and it was found that miscalculations in one stage of the work were to blame for the tragedy.

Decisions were taken after some time to rebuild the Congress Hall and on 12 June of this year, it once again opened its doors to the public.

In this, Jubilee Year, the Congress Hall is hosting one of Berlin's main exhibitions. 'Science in Berlin' looks at the way in which scientific knowledge was pursued in the time of Leibnitz and beyond, as well as explores science's current applications and future possibilities. The exhibition runs until 1 November. It is open daily from 1000—1900 hours and stays open until 2100 hours on Thursday. Entrance costs DM 5 for adults and DM 2.50 for children. The Congress Hall is off John-Foster-Dalles-Allee.

Canal Cruising from the Congress Hall

Berlin has an extensive network of canals and navigable rivers which can be 'explored' from outside the Congress Hall. As with any boat trip it's a relaxing way to spend an afternoon and can make a pleasant change from the usual Havel trips. A cruise on the canal takes you behind the scenes of many familiar places and presents them from new angles.

'Reederei Horst Duggan' is a local company which offers three different Spree and Canal trips throughout the year. The first one takes you along the Spree, through parts of Kreuzberg, and cruises almost the full length of the Landwehr Canal. Tour 2 explores the waterways around Charlottenburg, and the third trip carries you as far as Spandau Citadel and along the Hohenzollern Canal at the side of Teget airport.

All the trips start from and return to the Congress Hall. Parking nearby presents few problems and buses 69 and 83 stop along the closest main roads. The boarding point for the boats can be found from Moltkestrasse. About half way up the road are signs for 'Damperanlegestelle Reederei Heinz Riedel'. Follow these, passing the departure point for this company, and continue until the end of the pier from where the 'Duggan' boats leave.

Knowing very little about the Canal and Spree tours beforehand I decided to opt for the one lasting three hours. I can certainly recommend it. The first part of the journey takes you up to the Spreekreuz (Spree Cross) where the Charlottenburg Verbindungs Canal, Landwehr Canal and Spree all meet. This section proved to be very interesting as you first adjust to seeing things from the water and gain a different perspective of familiar things. The Congress Hall, for example, reminded me of the big dipper!

Sitting on the Spree and watching the deserted factories float by makes you think of a bygone age when water transport was all-important and industrialists had to site work places next to the water. Berlin used to be in the centre of the oldest waterway network in Germany. The 'Markwasserstrassen' connected the River Oder in the

(continued overleaf)



Busy Westhafen in Moubit.



The collapsed roof of the Congress Hall, 1980.



Sagitz



Wilmersdorf



Krenschberg



Schöneberg



Charlottenburg



Tiergarten



Tempelhof



Reinickendorf



Wedding



Neukölln



Zehlendorf



Spandau

(continued)

East with the River Elbe in the West. Goods and raw materials were transported by such waterways long before the railways came. Berlin was at the heart of the transport traffic before the last war but today the city is the terminus point for much of it.

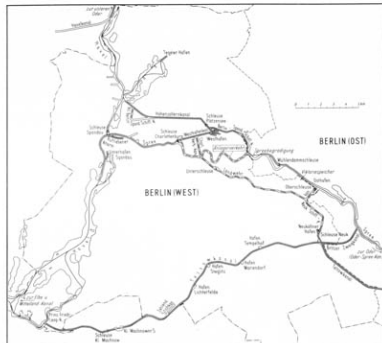
Just before the Spreekreuz you'll notice a small harbour (built in 1936) where barges used to take on board the city's rubbish and dispose of it elsewhere. This depot was closed in the '60s but the waterways are still utilized by the DDR to dispose of West Berlin's rubbish. Coal is also transported by water — as the stockpiles on the banks of the river testify.

At the Spreekreuz you turn left onto one of Berlin's oldest man-made waterways — the Landwehr Canal. It was constructed in 1845—50 from a plan by Lenné and was widened in 1883—89. The canal connects the Upper Spree (at Schliesisches Tor) with the Lower Spree (before the Teltow Canal) to by-pass the busy centre.

Just after you join the canal and before reaching the lock you experience the strange sensation of going under Charlottenburg Bridge and Strasse des 17. Juni. When travelling along this very same road by car you are hardly aware of crossing a canal, so discovering that there is water under the bridge comes as something of a surprise!

The canal continues through some attractive areas including a pretty promenade which forms part of the Tiergarten, and the area known as Urbanhafen — the harbour which was once essential to water traffic but was closed in 1964 and grassed over. In Kreuzberg, the most densely populated area of Berlin, you are carried past the National Gallery with its distinctive sculpture outside, and the American Memorial Library which was opened in 1954. For a time you follow the raised-up section of the U-Bahn to Hallesches Tor, but the real treat is yet to come. Between Admiral Bridge and Kottbusser Bridge is a building preservation area. From the water you have one of the best views possible of large houses which have been expertly restored with the help of special funds from the Senate. They really are a splendid sight. These old buildings, however, are not the only attractive ones to line the canal bank. Many modern blocks are also aesthetically pleasing with shell-shaped balconies and tasteful use of colour.

The outward journey is brought to a close with the sight of the Wall and, unfortunately, the only way back is to return along the same route. This is the trip's only drawback but it does give you the chance to have a second look



A guide to Berlin's waterways.

at places and buildings of special interest. It also provides an opportunity to look at wildlife on the water: the pigeons that huddle together under the low and cobwebbed bridges; the ducks that regard motorized vehicles as trespassers on their water; the water rats that scurry along the banks.

Given a dash of sunshine, canal cruising can be both an enlightening and relaxing way of spending an afternoon. And the likelihood is that once you've sampled one tour you'll back for more!

Spree and Canal Tours with Reederrei Horst Duggan

All trips start from the Congress Hall and depart daily. Boats have café facilities on board. Children between the age of six and twelve travel half price. For further enquiries ring 394 49 54.

Tour 1 — 1545 hours — lasts 3 hours — DM 8.

Congress Hall — Spreekreuz — Landwehr Canal — Tiergarten Lock — Zoo — Urbanhafen — Wall — back to Congress Hall.

Tour 2 — 1345 hours — lasts 2 hours — DM 6.

Congress Hall — Charlottenburg Verbindungs Canal — Westhafen — Kolk — Charlottenburg Lock — Charlottenburg Palace — Congress Hall.

Tour 3 — 0945 hours — lasts 4 hours — DM 10.

Congress Hall — Charlottenburg Palace — Tegeler Weg — Charlottenburg Lock — Reuter Power Station — Spree — Lindenufer — Spandau Lock — Citadel — Havel — Hohenzollern Canal (Tegel Airport) — Plötzensee Lock — Westhafen — Congress Hall.

Cathryn Wilcock



Cruising along the Landwehr Canal.