

# BERLIN BULLETIN



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## Visit of Old Comrades to 'B' Sqn 14/20 H

There is a tendency for the Berlin Armoured Squadron, separated as it is from its parent regiment by most of East Germany, the whole of the North Sea and a substantial part of Yorkshire, to feel isolated and cut off from the rest of the regimental family. In order to make sure that this does not in fact happen, a lot of effort is put into strengthening the regimental ties. In July of this year, HRH The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, visited the Squadron in Berlin at her own request after visiting the rest of the Regiment in Catterick. And, at the end of September, a party of some thirty-eight Old Comrades visited the Squadron, again at their own request.

When the visit was first mooted in the spring, much concern was expressed as to how the Old Comrades, some in their late 70s, would fare on the long bus and boat trip from Manchester. In the event, we need not have worried: the only ones to suffer on the journey were the boat staff, the bus driver and the organiser, Regimental Secretary Maj Bill Williams, all of whom had rather a difficult time keeping the youngsters under control!

Apart from Maj Williams, the party included Lt Col Frazer, who commanded the Regiment 1964–66, Mrs. Karen Potts, the daughter of a Troop Sergeant in the 20th Hussars, and some members of



*'Memories of Yesteryear!' Some Old Comrades pose in front of a 'B' Sqn 14/20 H Chieftrain.*

'B' Squadron from when it was last the Berlin Armoured Squadron in 1957–60. They reported one or two changes since their day, including a new wall built behind the Reichstag!

The first full day of the visit was spent seeing the Squadron and its equipment at work on the tank park. For many of them, it was their first experience of a Chieftrain and although they were impressed by its manoeuvrability and performance, they claimed to miss the subtle joys of crash gearboxes and non-excitant suspension.

The day was rounded off with a Squadron Social in the Junior Ranks Club, which was a great success. Unfortunately,

the musicians' instruments had been eaten by the luggage carousel at Tegel airport, so they had to borrow from members of the Squadron, but a thoroughly good time was had by all.

The visit also included a boat trip on the Havel and a trip to East Berlin, as well as a certain amount of "free time" for shopping and sight-seeing in the West. By the time the Old Comrades boarded their bus for the trip home, some of them were, at last, beginning to feel a bit tired, but they had all impressed the Squadron with their energy and stamina. They had also made sure that no-one in the Squadron was left in any doubt as to how close the links are between the Squadron and the rest of the Regimental family, serving or retired.



*Tpr Hawker shows one of the visitors the commander's station in a Chieftrain.*

## Luton Delegation visits RAF Gatow



Photo: W. Maths

*The Mayoress presents Wing Commander Yarrow with a Luton tie after receiving an engraving of the station.*

A party of eleven Luton town officials, led by Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. P. J. Wolsey, visited RAF Gatow on 12 October. As guests of Spandau Mayor Werner Salomon, the party spent five days in the city.

Half a day was reserved to view the facilities at RAF Gatow; especially in connection with the weekly Trooper flight to Luton. After a welcoming speech by the Acting Station Commander, Wg Cdr Steve Yarrow, the party was briefed on the history of Gatow, the pre-war years, the days of the Luftwaffe, the Airlift and the

forty-two year presence of the RAF at Gatow.

They visited the Air Movements building, where they were briefed by Sqn Ldr Roger Cresswell (S Mov O) about the Gatow—Luton flights. Over a million passengers have been flown on the Trooper so far and to many members of the British Garrison, the Air Movements building is the first and last thing they see of Berlin.

A lunch with RAF Officers concluded the visit and, as the Mayoress stated in her speech, they all considered it very pleasant and informative.

## 'Thank You' Presentation from 14/20H

Officers and soldiers of 14th/20th King's Hussars were delighted when, during the visit to Berlin of their Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal, in the summer, the Mayor of Spandau presented the Regiment with a replica of the Prussian Eagle which hangs above the door of Spandau Citadel.

So last week the 14th/20th said a formal "thank you" to the Mayor. The CO, Lt Col Christopher Price, in Berlin especially for the occasion, handed to Herr Werner Salomon a beautiful



Photo: Army PI

**The Mayor of Spandau receives a framed photograph from Lt Col Price, 14/20H.**

framed photograph of his earlier presentation, which had been accepted by the Princess Royal on behalf of the Regiment.

The 14th/20th's association with the Prussian Eagle goes back to 1798, when its predecessor, the 14th Light Dragoons, provided an escort for HRH Princess Frederica, Princess Royal of Prussia and daughter of King Frederick William II, when she arrived in England for the first time after her marriage to the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the Army. As a mark of special favour, the 14th were granted the title of 'Duchess of York's Own' and adopted Brandenburg orange as the colour of their uniform facings. They were also given the King's permission to wear the Prussian Eagle badge which they do to this day.

Until now the Regiment has not had any formal links with Spandau; its base at Smuts Barracks is in fact affiliated to the Tiergarten. It is appropriate, however, that ties should be formed as 'B' Squadron, which has been in Berlin since 1985, hands over the armoured role to 'C' Squadron in December.

## Visit of Lt Col Muchtar

Lt Col Muchtar, CO 5 Royal Malay Regiment visited 1 KOSB last week. The Royal Malay Regiment is an affiliated Regiment to 1 KOSB. On Tuesday, 6 October, Lt Col Muchtar visited various departments in the Battalion. Before his departure Lt Col Muchtar presented the KOSB with one of his Regimental plaques (green for Malaya, purple for bravery and yellow for being a Royal Regiment).



**Lt J. A. Kerr explains the Mortar computer to Lt Col Muchtar.**

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We are pleased to consider contributions for publication. Material should be typed and submitted by 1200 hours on Tuesday for the Friday of publication. The office is situated in Gloucester Block.

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

## Farewell to RSM Crabtree

On Saturday, 10 October, the Brigade RSM WO1 (RSM) A. Crabtree, Royal Signals, was dined out of HQ Berlin Sergeants' Mess. After an excellent meal provided by the Master Chef, WO2 Brian Muir, and his staff, directed by the PMC, WO2 Dave Blagg, and the Mess Caterer, Sgt Bernie Crossland, presentations were made from his technicians, RAOC, BRIXMIS, ACC, SASC, RE, BMH. The Dining President, WO1 John Clark, presented WO1 Crabtree with porcelain from the Mess members, with representation from all three Services and also civilians. Music was provided by the Band of 1 GLOSTERS. The RSM then left the dinner table on a horse provided by the Saddle Club (by kind permission of Col J.J. McMullen and Miss Jane Stamper), and admirably accompanied by that expert in horseflesh — Mr. Jon Bennett.



RSM Crabtree is dined out by friends and colleagues.

## Fair Cop in a Good Cause

Royal Military Police Corporals Caroline Horne and Gerard Baldwin made one of their more unusual arrests in Berlin on Saturday — that of two desperate 'jail-breakers' who had come all the way from Staffordshire.

Desperate, that is, for money. Philip Siddell and George Startin, members of Lichfield District Round Table, hope with the aid of the RMPs to have raised around £2,000 for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Appeal Fund.

The two businessmen and other members of their Round Table, with the aid of the prison authorities, set up a sponsored 'escape' from Swinfen Jail near Lichfield the previous day. The rules were that, operating in pairs with only £10 in cash in their pockets, they got as far from the jail as possible in 24 hours. Their sponsors paid up for every mile they covered.

Selecting Berlin as a destination which was just a little different and in a 'stolen' Mercedes (Philip's company car) using 'stolen' (the company's) lorry drivers' fuel coupons, they sped away from the prison at 1130 hours on Friday. Exactly a day later they had covered the 750-odd miles to the British Sector HQ at London Block.



Photo: Army PI

Escape from Swinfen Jail ... but soon recaptured, Philip Siddell and George Startin proving that crime does pay!

After all that, the long arm of the law was pleased to reach out in support. Caroline — known to her friends as Alf — and Gerard applied the arm locks which were required and also wished the businessmen well in their effort.

Rather less happily, the 'escapees' had an earlier brush with the law on Saturday when they were stopped by the East German police for exceeding a speed limit at the approach to roadworks in the Corridor. That set them back DM 50!

## 1988 Information Supplement: Call for Entries!

Work has now begun on next year's Information Supplement and we need your help and suggestions.

Do you run a club or activity in which others may be interested? Or have you any information that might benefit other British personnel stationed in Berlin? If so, don't keep it to yourself! Type a brief description of the information you would like published in the Information Supplement and send it to us by 2 November. Please include your name and daytime telephone number so

that we can contact you if we have any queries.

Remember, the Information Supplement is produced for your benefit so please help us to help you!

Send your items for inclusion or suggestions for improvement to:

The Editor  
Berlin Bulletin  
Gloucester Block  
HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade  
BFPO 45

# BERLIN BULLETIN

## BERLIN DIARY

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

1957

### Farewell to Berlin

The skies were grey last Saturday for the parade bidding farewell to 1 Independent Squadron, The Royal Tank Regiment, who are to be disbanded after six years service in Berlin. Perhaps it was a fitting morning for what was inevitably a sad occasion.

1 Indep Sqn have been with us ever since it was decided in 1951 to form, from units serving in the United Kingdom and West Germany, an independent squadron to fulfil British commitments in Berlin. During their time here the Squadron has earned the respect of all who have served with it, in its participation in all the major activities of the Berlin Independent Brigade. It was indeed appropriate that representatives from all the larger units stationed in Berlin should have taken part in saying farewell.



After an inspection by the GOC, the order was given "1 Independent Squadron The Royal Tank Regiment, prepare to drive past." Slowly the tanks and vehicles moved up to the top of Olympischer Platz to form up. Then as the order to advance was given, they moved in columns of two towards the saluting base. They formed an impressive sight,

these great lumbering vehicles, with guns lowered in salute. As they passed, those on parade presented arms, a token of respect for the men who were leaving. We last saw them streaming away down Olympische Strasse to the strains of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The Squadron is being relieved by 'B' Sqn 14/20 H.

1967

### Welcome to "The Glorious GLOSTERS"

Men of The Gloucestershire Regiment are now serving in Berlin for the first time since 1946. The Regiment's 1st (and now only) Battalion arrived at RAF Gatow throughout the week to replace 1st Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Brooke Barracks, Spandau.

"The Glorious GLOSTERS", as they have been popularly known since the Korean War, still have with them several veterans of the battle of the Imjin River where, for three days in 1951, they held out alone against successive waves of opposing Chinese and North Korean troops.

Although based for the last two years in the cathedral city of Chester in north-west England, they spent nine months of that period in Swaziland and elsewhere in Africa, with some personnel on detachment in Aden and the island of Mauritius.

Their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tony Streater, married with three sons and a daughter, is a well-known mountaineer and a keen horseman. He commands between 600 and 700 men, who are bringing with them some 180 wives and 340 children. Ten of the children belong to one couple, Sgt and Mrs. Bill Hodges!

1977

### New Medical Centre, Montgomery Barracks

On Thursday, 6 October, the new Medical Centre at Montgomery Barracks was formally opened by Mrs. C. R. Grey, wife of the Field Force Commander.



The conversion of the previously empty barrack block has provided the new Centre with much more space than its original location and has allowed for a complete SSAFA Sister's department upstairs, as well as a large First Aid instruction room. The new standards of comfort and, we hope, efficiency, are already much appreciated by staff and patients alike.



The Hodges family.

# Berlin in Brief

A news round-up from the Berlin Press



**Former Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister, Uwe Barschel, was found dead in a Geneva hotel last Sunday afternoon by a reporter who was intending to interview him for Stern magazine. There has been much speculation in the press since as to the cause of his death.**

\*\*\*

**The Governing Mayor went to Bonn last week "to do battle for the Berlin allowance" (Morgenpost's headline). Herr Diepgen said that the allowance must be retained at all costs. Morgenpost reported that, according to its Bonn correspondent, the Berlin allowance was not in danger but that certain subsidies were to be reduced.**

\*\*\*

**Berlin's "birth certificate" is on display in the entrance hall of the Rathaus Schöneberg until 18 October. It is on loan from the GDR.**

\*\*\*

**A husband and wife and their three sons from the GDR successfully escaped to the Federal Republic on the evening of Tuesday, 6 October. The family used an army lorry to crash through a gate in the boundary fence.**

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**The local police has decided to intensify its checks on speeding motorists with more policemen and an increased number of radar traps around-the-clock. There will also be more on-the-spot fines.**

\*\*\*

**The GDR celebrated the 38th anniversary of its foundation on 7 October with a military parade in East Berlin at which a major array of hardware was on show. The three Western Allies issued a statement condemning the continuation of such illegal East German military displays, and the violation of the de-militarized status of the city.**

\*\*\*

**The Berlin Senate has decided that Lebanese families, who were residing in Berlin on 1 October, may stay for the time being. Other foreign nationals who were resident in the city on or after 1 January 1981 may also remain. The only exception are foreign nationals sentenced to prison terms of more than three months. The Governing Mayor described the decision as an "act of humanity, honesty and good sense".**

18

**Some 90,000 visitors participated in the 'Berliner Festwochen' between 31 August and 4 October.**

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**The GDR airline, Interflug, will be adding flights to Singapore to its schedule from 2 November.**

\*\*\*

**The Senate will be spending DM 20.81 million next year for public relations work in the Federal Republic and abroad. This figure is DM 1.6 million above that for 1987.**

\*\*\*

**The local police has posted a reward of DM 50,000 for information leading to the apprehension of the group which tried to set fire to the magnetic railway.**

\*\*\*

**The living quarters of a local policeman were searched last week. The investigating authorities discovered illegal weapons and Nazi emblems at his home. The officer concerned had been under suspicion for some time and he has now been suspended from duty. He will be charged with violating Allied weapons regulations.**

\*\*\*

**A whole array of weapons was discovered by the local police last Wednesday night when they searched the flat of a 28 year old man in Berlin's Wedding district. The police acted on a tip-off from a member of the public.**

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**A group of twenty-eight authors from Germany and Europe took over the running of the paper, Die Tageszeitung, for three days last week.**

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**Last week, East Berlin border guards stopped a West German man some three metres before he reached the demarcation line at the border crossing point of Heinrich-Heine-Strasse. The man had been visiting East Berlin pubs and was returning to West Berlin on foot when he became impatient with the delay at the controls. He then tried to run across.**

\*\*\*

**The President of Berlin's Free University, Prof. Dieter Heckelmann, was attacked and robbed in his home last Wednesday night.**

\*\*\*

**A new way to make money is being planned by the local transport company, BVG, in conjunction with major industries. The project involves firms sharing the cost of tickets which are then to be made available to staff at a reduced price.**

\*\*\*

**"Legende oder Lehrstück" ("Legend or Lesson") is the theme of an exhibition which was opened by the Governing Mayor**

**and the three Allied Commandants last Friday at Tegel airport. Exhibits about the Berlin Blockade and the Airlift will be on show until 21 November.**

\*\*\*

**GDR Head of State, Erich Honecker, last week opened one of the world's largest and most modern planetariums in East Berlin. It was built in the GDR as the centre-piece of the Cosmorama project for the study of astronomy.**

\*\*\*

**The official founding ceremony for Berlin's Academy of Science took place in the Reichstag last Saturday in the presence of the Federal President, the Inner German Affairs Minister and the Governing Mayor among other dignitaries. In his speech, the Governing Mayor expressed the hope that some co-operation will come about between the new Academy and the Academy of Science of the GDR.**

\*\*\*

**Local trade union chief, Michael Pagels, has returned from a five-day visit to Britain as an official guest of Her Majesty's government. He told Morgenpost that he found much agreement among British government representatives as well as the trade unions for his suggestion that the Four-Power Agreement should be further developed (travel and visits, rail traffic) in the interests of East/West relations. Herr Pagels added, however, that a pre-requisite for any such moves was that the four power status of the city was not affected.**

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**Former Berlin Environment Senator Vetter (FDP) and former Tiergarten Mayor Wurche (SPD) have been charged with perjury. Both cases involve alleged false statements during the Hermann corruption trial about money received from building entrepreneur Franke. (Vetter is claiming that he received only DM 10,000 in donations and not DM 50,000).**

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# Mulling over the Müggelturm

Autumn often affords us some of the most crystal clear days of the year. October this year has been no exception and if you are wondering how to make the best of these last warm days before winter one idea is to visit the Müggelturm, the tower in East Berlin which is situated on Berlin's highest natural set of hills, the Müggelberge. From the Müggelturm there is a superb panoramic view of surrounding countryside within the old Mark of Brandenburg. Nearby, too, is Berlin's largest lake, the Müggelsee and exploring its shores is an added incentive to making the trip.

The journey to the Müggelturm takes between thirty and forty minutes from Checkpoint Charlie and though the route appears complex it is really quite straight forward. From Checkpoint Charlie find your way to Molkenmarkt and there turn along Stralauer Strasse which becomes Holzmarkt Strasse and later Mühlenstrasse. Follow the road (to the right) across the Eisen bridge, then turn left and travel past Treptow Park. Carry straight on and then follow signs for Köpenick. As you pass through this small but busy town be careful to take the Müggelheimer Strasse (later Müggelheimer Damm) out of it. This should lead you, very soon, into the Berlin Forest and after a short distance look out for the sign on the right which directs you to the Müggelturm.

The tower, thirty metres high and of nine storeys, is situated on the Müggelberg hill, itself 115 metres high. Unfortunately you cannot ride up to it in your car (there is a car park at the bottom) but the ten minute walk to the top makes quite a refreshing change after the level plods of the Grunewald!

The view of the surrounding landscape does not open out until you have surmounted the many steps of the restaurant which stands at the foot of the tower. There you have the first glimpses of water over the tops of the trees, and can stop for a well-earned rest and cup of coffee (if the service is not too slow!) The tower above, built in 1961, appears dull and functional being constructed out of concrete and steel, yet is certainly stable and affords good views all the way up.

At the summit is a superb bird's eye view of the forest and lakes all around. It's from these lofty heights that you gain a complete picture of the Müggelsee area and can best orientate yourself. Straight ahead to the south the River Dahme and Langer See can clearly be seen winding their way through the low land below. To explore their banks, the Marienlust, only ten minutes walk from the tower, is an obvious port of call. From there you can walk along the edge of the Langer See and, alternatively, eat at the restaurant and if you are lucky, watch a rowing crew go past. This stretch of water was used for the rowing competitions in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

To the north of the Müggelturm is the tiny Teufelsee which can, again, be reached from the tower and you may find it enjoyable to follow the nature trail (Natur-



*The Müggelturm.*

lehrpfad) down through the woods to the little lake. The large lake behind that one is, of course, the Grosser Müggelsee, four kilometres long and about two and a half wide. To the east of it is the old fishing village of Rahnsdorf which, unfortunately, can only be reached by driving right round the north bank of the Müggelsee. Closer to hand, however, is Müggelheim, a small village which was settled with twenty Palatine families in 1747 by Frederick the Great.

The short drive to Müggelheim is probably more worthwhile (and safer) than taking the bumpy, pot-holed road down to Müggelhort. (Tree roots under the road surface have rendered the stretch quite dangerous and it calls for some fairly skilled slalom driving!) Müggelhort is set on a small piece of land that juts out and separates the Kleiner Müggelsee from the Grosser Müggelsee. The cafe there is pleasantly situated on the water's edge but besides the fine view across the lake, there is little else to see.

There is much to view from the Müggelturm, however, not least to the west. On an exceptionally clear day you are supposed to be able to see as far into West Berlin as the Glockenturm at the Olympic Stadium. I suspect such sights are rare (though more common in Autumn) but whatever the weather you are certain of taking home two overall impressions: the density of the Berlin Forest in this area, and the flatness of the land as far as the eye can see. Berlin was once covered by an ice cap and the retreating waters carved out the glacial valley in which she now stands. The lakes and the lowlands remain the only remembrances of those early times.

To see the Müggelsee from closer quarters leave the Müggelturm and turn right to join the main road (Müggelheimer Damm) which leads to the village. Before you've travelled far along this road you will see a sign for the hotel/restaurant complex of Müggelseeperle. Turn left as indicated and leave your car in the convenient pay car park. You then have to walk the short distance to the lakeside. Unfortunately, there are no roads which circumvent the lake so this system of park and walk operates at the few points around its banks created to accommodate 'tourists'. The one main road to the village runs near to the lake but cuts through the forest so there is never any chance of seeing the lake from the road. This is a disappointment when compared with the openness of the Wannsee but, I suppose, protects the lakeside from noise and pollution.

The banks of the Müggelsee are busy in holiday periods, particularly at Müggelseeperle which not only accommodates East German holiday-makers in luxurious, westernized hotels but is the destination of day-trippers who use the 'Weisse Flotte' or white pleasure steamers to cross the lake from industrial Friedrichshagen. The latter town is clearly visible from the opposite side of the lake and was established in 1753 when a hundred families of cotton spinners started to live and work there. To explore it today, the energetic way is to walk from



*Map of the Müggelberge area.*

Müggelsee around the edge of the lake to the pedestrian tunnel which takes you under the Spree and across to the north bank of the lake where Friedrichshagen is to be found.

Much easier on the feet, though, is to eat at one of the good restaurants or sit along the built-up bank, looking over to the far away Strandbad, and noticing the lack of activity on the water. Here again is a contrast with the Wannsee; there are no brightly-coloured sails on the water and only the occasional steamer. The 'life' is to be



*The quiet waters of the Müggelsee.*

found at the lakeside with groups of pensioners and holiday-makers walking along the water's edge.

Unfortunately, the permitted time does not allow more than a cursory cruise of this Müggelberge area and a number of trips are needed to explore and enjoy it thoroughly. There is, however, time enough for some sad reflections and comparisons. Müggelsee lacks the openness, colour and vitality that characterizes Wannsee, yet to the post-war visitor of West Berlin it gives an invaluable insight into the wonderful natural resources that were once available to the whole of the pre-war metropolis.

**Cathryn Wilcock**