

BERLIN BULLETIN



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Freedom of Wilmersdorf for 29 Sig Regt



Outside Wilmersdorf Town Hall the Mayor takes the Salute.



Reviewing the Parade, Mayor Dohm and the escorting Officers. Photo: Army PR

It was a proud occasion for the officers and men of 29 Signal Regiment when, with their Corps band playing at their head, they marched through central Berlin to exercise, for the first time, their right to the Freedom of Wilmersdorf.

The Regiment, which was formed in Berlin in 1983, was honoured with the Freedom along with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, at a joint ceremony in April last year, but this was the first occasion on

which either unit has exercised its right. 1 RHF are now in Edinburg.

A smart parade of two guards, each 30 strong, with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals in the lead, set off from Oliver Platz in the heart of the Kurfürstendamm Shopping Area on Tuesday morning, to the admiration of crowds of shoppers and many others who had come especially to watch the event.

The parade, under the Command of Lt Col John Munnery, CO of 29 Sig Regt, then for-

med up on the Hohenzollerndamm at the Wilmersdorfer Rathaus, where it was reviewed by the British Commandant, Major General Patrick Brooking, Master of Signals, Major General John Badcock, who travelled to Berlin for the occasion, and the Bezirksbürgermeister of Wilmersdorf, Herr Horst Dohm.

Afterwards Herr Dohm entertained 29 Sig Regt and its honoured guests to a reception at the Rathaus.

New Tracked Vehicle Training Area Opened



The GOC and Prof. Starnick plant a tree in the new recreation area.

Tracked vehicle driver training in Berlin moved into higher gear last week, with the opening of the new training area in the Grunewald.

The area, on what was formerly the site of a quarry immediately to the east of the old driver training track, was officially handed over to the British Commandant, Major General Patrick Brooking, by the Senator for City Planning and Environment, Professor Dr. Jürgen Starnick. Also present was Herr Horst Dohm, Bezirksbürgermeister of Wilmersdorf.

At the same time, the old training area — including the famous 'frogpond' which was fenced off to prevent harm to the several rare species of wildlife it contained — was released to the Berlin Senate for re-cultivation.

The opening, which follows 2½ years of negotiation and five months work on site, offers tracked vehicle drivers, principally the Chiefstank of 'B' Squadron 14/20th King's Hussars, the opportunity to practise their skills in testing conditions.

Landscaping of the quarry once it became disused, a condition which had been imposed on the firm operating it when they occupied the site, was carried out in consultation with the Public Safety Branch of the British Military Government in order that the completed project would best meet the Army's needs.

The work involved the demolition of buildings on the site, filling-in of some areas with hard core, and the creation at different levels of ramps and splash ponds.

Officer Commanding the Hussars' 'B' Squadron, Maj The Hon Jeremy Grey, was well pleased with the result — notwithstanding the fact the 'B' Squadron has only weeks left in Berlin and it will be its successor, 'C' Squadron of the same regiment, which benefits.

"We now have a purpose-built driver training course which will give the drivers the experience they require", he said. "This area satisfies both the military need and the civilian desire for recreation".

★ RCT's Double-Decker Bus at Checkpoint Charlie ★



The photograph shows the intrepid party headed by our senior guest for the event, Col Hamer-Phillip, CO BMH Berlin.

"I don't care where it's from you can't park here!"

Anyone standing at Checkpoint Charlie recently would have seen the inaugural run of 62 Sqn RCT's PRI Double-Decker bus. Although right up until arrival at the Checkpoint no-one was quite sure whether the bus would fit under the canopy or whether the authorities would let it into the Soviet Sector.

Both achieved, however, the entourage on board were treated to not quite a bird's eye view (but surely the next best thing) of the sights as the bus, admirably driven by LCpl Hussey of the Squadron, wended its way through the streets of East Berlin.

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Another Cheque for Charity

Last week Maj Richard Nunneley MBE and Pte 'Paddy' Reilly assisted by twenty other soldiers from the Black Watch and two Pipers, presented the Schwester Oberin at St. Hedwigs Orphanage in Kladow with a cheque for DM 1,000.



The money was part of the proceeds from the Wilmersdorf Friendship Weekend. Although it was raised in Wilmersdorf and part will be spent on welfare in that borough the Black Watch rightly felt that their needy neighbours in Kladow should not be forgotten. After the presentation they entertained the children for a short while before they withdrew, exhausted by their efforts.

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New Bus Service

As from 2 November 62 Tpt & Mov Sqn RCT will offer a faster and more direct bus service. The Alexander Barracks to Edinburgh House route which now takes 1 hour, will take 40 minutes and the Edinburgh House to Montgomery Barracks run will be reduced from 40 minutes to 30 minutes.

To enable this to happen the following alterations will have to be made:

1. There will only be one RAF Gatow stop. This will be outside the station where the BVG bus stops.
2. Ahornallee will be cut out as this is a narrow and difficult road for a bus to negotiate.
3. For passengers at Dickensweg and the BMH, the stop will be on Passenheimer Strasse where the Montgomery Barracks bus stops.
4. The Wavel Barracks stop will now be at the end of that road on Seeburger Strasse.

5. The stop for Smuts Barracks will now be on Gatower Strasse/Am Omnibus Hof by the BVG depot.

The cuts may sound drastic but if we stick to the old routes we will seriously have to reduce the amount of runs each bus can do anyway. The new Alexander Barracks bus will make 17 runs and the Montgomery Barracks bus will make 10 runs. With the old routes these would have become 13 and 9 respectively.

As you may be aware, the summer routes are cut during the winter due to the bad weather, so this new system will prevent any winter rationalisation.

In addition we will be re-introducing the Monday to Friday bus to the Wilmersdorf Shopping Centre.

The new timetable will appear in next week's Bulletin.

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

Assault River Crossing Demonstration by Royal Welch Fusiliers

Last Friday, the Assault Pioneer Platoon of 1 RWF gave a demonstration assault river crossing. The "river" was, in fact, Lieper Bucht — one of the smaller bays of the Havel.

The demonstration, which lasted seventy-five minutes, was watched by the GOC and the Brigade Commander, together with other British, French and United States officers. Parties from most of the units in BIB were also present as spectators. *(Army PR Photo)*



1967

A Touch of London in Berlin



As the Band of the Queen's Own Highlanders play, a silver maple is planted in a garden colony in Neukölln. The tree was a gift from Hammersmith Rural District — and it was planted with a bag of London earth and watered by a bottle of Thames water!

1977

RAF Gatow Small Bore Rifle & Pistol Club Official Opening

Friday, 21 October saw the official opening of the new RAF Gatow Rifle and Pistol Club.

The afternoon started when Gp Capt and Mrs. Benson were met at the entrance to the club by Cpl Lucas, the Club Secretary. Here they were shown the club's new sign, beautifully hand-painted by Mrs. M. Anderson, then they were guided to the depths of the cellars under Gatow Middle School where the indoor range is situated.



Gp Capt T.E. Benson examines SLR rifles with Cpl Lucas, watched by Pitt Off(W) Humphreys.

Downstairs in the club room, the Station Commander signed the range orders and indemnity forms, pausing for a moment to think, no doubt, of his life insurance policies! Before going through to the range he was met by the Officer IC of the Club Pitt Off(W) L. Humphreys and introduced to the club members and guests.

In the range itself, Gp Capt and Mrs. Benson both commented on how attractive it had been made and the Station Commander thanked the representatives of 38 Fd Sqn RE and PSA, who had helped with the building.