

BERLIN BULLETIN



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Poppy Appeal The Royal British Legion



"We all take our freedom for granted. We forget too easily the enormous sacrifices made in two World Wars."

(Quote: by a former Minister for the Disabled.)

The never-ending task to which the Legion has dedicated itself is the relief of hardships and the provision of essential support services for the ex-Service personnel of World Wars and numerous other conflicts in which British Servicemen and -women have been engaged during this century.

What was done — indeed in Northern Ireland today is even being done now — by men and women who have died or were injured or suffered in the Forces, has relevance *here and now* for each and everyone of us. Were it not for the losses sustained by the widows, and the injuries, disablements and hardships endured by men and women in the defence of our country in time of conflict, the quality of life of every man, woman and child

would be different — and very much the worse.

Each and every citizen of our country is indebted to the achievements made by our Servicemen and -women in the past.

It is a matter of regret that, in these matters, the memory fades all too quickly, yet the suffering persists, and there is still with us today the legacy from past and present conflicts, requiring a practical approach if we are to continue to ease the burdens of those who lost health or limbs, or were in any way disadvantaged by their experience in the Forces.

The stark aftermath of active service on the lives of so many men and women does not lose its impact by the passage of time. A handicap sustained in early life may have been borne with less difficulty — if

with no less fortitude — than in later years. A wife widowed so long ago often finds her lot harder to bear as the years advance.

As at December, 31, 1986 there were 5,269 war pensioners and 5,883 war widows from the 1914–18 War. Many of these are now very elderly and frail. Many require special accommodation and intensive nursing. At the same date there were 204,243 war pensioners and 55,367 war widows from the 1939–45 World War until the present time. All of them look to the Legion for help.

It is against this background that we ask you:

**"Please Give Generously
On Poppy Day"**

Grand Re-Opening of NAAFI Foodhall

Last Tuesday, 20 October, Mrs. Pamela Brooking, wife of the GOC Berlin British Sector, officially declared the refurbished Summit House Foodhall open.

Completely re-decorated in NAAFI house style colours, the Foodhall has a new floor and a separate entrance and exit to the Heerstrasse.

The new fittings have been designed and placed to hide the large pillars and make the gangways as wide as possible. The addition of a further cash point should relieve much of the congestion experienced in the old shop.

NAAFI look forward to welcoming back all customers to the Foodhall which now offers the full range of goods that were not available during the two months of modernisation.



Photo: Army PI

Guy Fawkes Celebrations

This year's Guy Fawkes celebrations will be held on Thursday, 5 November at the Maifeld. The Maifeld is open to spectators at 1700 hours when the refreshment stalls open selling a wide range of food from Soups to Haggis, and also Beer and Glühwein. From 1730 hours to 1800 hours there will be a commentary in both English and German and the firework display begins at 1800 hours. The bonfire will be lit at approximately 1815 hours.

For Bus Timetable see page 20.

Borderers Back to the Country for Training



Photos: Army PI

A birds eye view of the countryside south of Kassel for 1 KOSB second in command, Maj Simon Barnettson, QGM.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, briefly left the urban environment in Berlin earlier this month to hone their infantry skills in the hilly, forested countryside of Hessen.

Exercise Survival Bear, one of an annual series of training excursions by Berlin-based units along the 'Corridor' to West Germany, took the Battalion to individual company locations spread over a wide area south of Kassel.

For three weeks the Jocks set aside their FIBUA (Fighting in Built Up Areas) expertise and got down to the basics of foot soldiering.

The exercise began with the Battalion transiting the Corridor on the British Military Train and, having rendezvoused with their transport which had driven down earlier, moving in company strength to points as far as 40 kilometres apart.

Fairly unprepossessing accommodation, in barns, disused schools and even a community centre or two — better than some used in the past — was quickly made as comfortable as possible and the soldiers settled into the training schedule drawn up by their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Clive Fairweather.

Beginning at section level, the plan logically worked up over the exercise period to operating at platoon, company, and finally, for the attack which formed the climax over the final three days, at Battalion strength.

With platoons pitting their skills one against another and surprise opposition thrown in at

one point by men of a locally based German Army unit, the Jocks enjoyed a valuable refresher course in patrolling, infiltration and the myriad other infantry skills.

For the final Battalion attack, after a march, mainly at night, over more than 30 kilometres, the 'enemy' was provided by 'B' Company of the 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment, which also travelled down from Berlin.

Said Col Fairweather: "While this type of training is very different from that for our main FIBUA role in Berlin, we have had the opportunity here to do the basic foot-soldiering which is, after all, our bread and butter".

"With no other duties to take people away, and because we have not been going home at night, we have been able to build up the tempo gradually. We have had the Battalion, the cooks, signals and REME included, working together as a machine".

He added: "We have had longer distances here to test our radio communications, woods to test the navigation, and plenty of hills to test our fitness and stamina.



Support Coy soldiers Ross MacGregor, Tommy Connarty and Thomas Graham setting up an 81mm Mortar.

The KOSB soldiers were fortunate to have mainly dry weather for the exercise, even though, as they found out while training at nights, the temperature dropped sharply after dark.

In an area which sees little of the British Army, they were the objects of a good deal of local curiosity, but also were made very welcome.

Flu Drivers are worse than Drunk Drivers

If you drive a car when you have flu it can be worse than being drunk, say doctors at the Common Cold Research Unit in Wiltshire.

The doctors carried out a study on how flu affects our daily lives and found that the befuddling effects of flu are equivalent to drinking 14 pints of beer or 14 double scotches. For an 11 stone man, 2½ pints of beer on an empty stomach puts him over the legal limit for driving. The doctors believe that comparing the flu sufferers to drink drivers gives a good indication of just how severe the effects of flu can be and how dangerous it is to attempt to drive or work while suffering from flu.

Doctors carried out tests on 400 volunteers over a period of four years. One of the tests required those who had been infected with the flu virus to perform simple reflex tests. The doctors found that the volunteers reacted 57 times slower than normal. This compares with a non-flu control group which performed the same tests after drinking two pints of beer. They were found to be only five to ten times slower.

Marriage Guidance

If you have a problem in your marriage which you would like to discuss with someone and receive help to resolve, please contact the Marriage Guidance Counsellor. Absolute confidentiality is guaranteed. Telephone for an appointment on 309 66 62.

Do You know
what Your Husband
is up to in Berlin?
See Page 19

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WRAF Tombola Stall Spandau Friendship Day

After spending various nights at RAF Gatow running around married quarters scrounging, begging and pleading for any non-perishable British products, Saturday 17 October dawned wet, miserable, and cold.

After eventually finding our stall (wedged between the Army's Sausage Roll and Pasties stall and Gatow Stamp Club) and decking it, and ourselves, with Union Jack flags, we started the day shouting in pitiful German hoping for custom, competing with the Havel School Bottle stall opposite. Well, the stall became very popular, maybe because of the outstanding goods on display, or maybe because the WRAF helpers were also being raffled off! (none of us were claimed!).

Eventually we got rid of our prizes, most of them by auction at the end, even selling off the packed lunches at a DM 1 a time, and ended up with a profit of over DM 1,300. This would not have come about without the help of the WRAF, or the girls who helped on the day —



Pictured at the Spandau Friendship Day — One of the younger visitors to 7 Fit AAC.

Pam, Linda, Gillian, Maureen, 'JJ', Andrea, Karen, Dawn, Sam and Bid — or without the very generous donations from all personnel at RAF Gatow. Many thanks, and see you next year!

RAF Chef of the Year

Sgt S. A. Jeffs recently won this year's RAF Chef of the Year at the School of Catering, Aldershot. He goes on to Olympia early in 1988 for the United Kingdom "Chef of the Year" competition.

Shown in the picture with Sgt Jeffs is the prize winner's trophy, and an icing sugar model of the Spandau Rathaus, the product of over 60 hours of painstaking work. The model was presented to the Spandau Council in commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the Freedom of Spandau at a celebration luncheon given in the Officers' Mess at RAF Gatow on the 20 October.



Sgt S. A. Jeffs.

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 tele-

phone 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:

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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

Berlin News

The exhibits of the Egyptian Section of the Berlin State Museums, evacuated to West Germany during the war, were brought to Berlin by air on Monday.

The extensive Masurenallee broadcasting premises will shortly be taken over by Sender Freies Berlin.

Charlottenburg School Children versus Parents

The School defeated the Parents on Saturday, 26 October by 5 goals to 1 in a match played under ideal football conditions. Playing together for the first time as a team, the School showed surprising cohesion, with R. Fido outstanding at centre half, and B. Perry the brains in an attack which moved the ball quickly and accurately.

Handicapped by the wearing of plimsolls and an agreement not to shoot inside the penalty area, the Parents nevertheless played the major part in making the match a pleasurable experience for spectators and players alike.

The School made a number of changes in the second half to give as many players a game as possible, but the parents showed a marked overall superiority, and only good goalkeeping by Smith restricted them to 1 goal. The constant substitution of players by the School in this half would have made a continental manager blush, but was there any substance in the remark overheard on the touchline in the closing minutes? — Surely, they haven't played with seventeen all the match!

1967

RAF Gatow — Married Quarters and Accommodation

The married quarters building sites are now buzzing with activity as the contractors enter the final stages of the first of the new houses. Building landmarks are noted with glee by those still waiting for a house, especially by one officer, who with his family, is fast approaching his second Christmas in the hostel.

The station echoes with cries of delight as kitchen fittings, internal doors, sinks and things and even garages turn up to mark the continuing progress. The first of the batch of officers' quarters is

due for completion this week, and the airmen's in the middle of the month. Even the weather is doing its best, which must be an omen of something or other!

1977

Notes from Ordnance Services Berlin



Yeomen Warders Davis and David meet CRAOC.

The past few months have been noteworthy for 'turbulence'. Since July no less than 25% of our military strength has been posted and replaced — all, I hasten to add, as a result of routine postings! In addition to this turbulence, we, like all other Berlin units, have been caught up in the general frenzy of preparations for the Berlin Tattoo.

The Supply Depot, by way of a change from the routine issue of FRIS, have issued several tons of hay, nuts and oats for the horses of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

The Unit's most noteworthy contribution to the Tattoo, however, is the manning of the souvenir shop. Selected for this task were the OIC

Barracks and the Local Procurement Officer. Both being long serving members of the 'Quartermaster's Mafia', known more politely in the Corps as 'Ordnance Executive Officers', it was considered that their undoubted ability to sell ice cream to Eskimos well befitted them to sell diverse trinkets to the local population.

Most welcome visitors to the unit in the week preceding the Tattoo were Yeomen Warders 'Pop' Davis and Joe David; here as members of the cast. 'Pop', being an ex RQMS of the RAOC, paid a visit to the Depot to meet old friends; one of them, Cdr Almond, hosted him for the remainder of the day on a tour of Berlin. The tour included a visit to the English Pub in the Europa Centre, all in the line of PR duty, of course!