

BERLIN BULLETIN



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Service of Remembrance

One of the more out of the ordinary Remembrance Day ceremonies took place on Sunday, 8 November: a Remembrance Day Service was held by BRIXMIS at the British Section of Stahnsdorf Cemetery in the GDR. Stahnsdorf is the former "Berlin south west" cemetery but is now outside the city border; it is ten minutes drive east of Potsdam and a little way south of the Soviet / GDR Autobahn checkpoint at Drewitz. It is a First World War cemetery and contains the graves of over 1,000 British and Commonwealth servicemen who died either in captivity during the 1914-1918 War or during the 1921-1922 internal security operation in the Upper Silesian Plebiscite. Although the British Embassy in East Berlin, on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, signed an agreement only as recently as April of this year with the GDR authorities formalising arrangements for the maintenance of war graves at Stahnsdorf, BRIXMIS has held a ceremony service at the cemetery for a number of years.



Charlottenburg Cemetery.



Stahnsdorf Cemetery.

A short service within the cemetery was conducted by the Reverend Roy McAllen, Senior Chaplain HQ Berlin (British Sector), and, in addition to members of BRIXMIS and their wives, was attended by their Excellencies the British and Commonwealth Ambassadors to the GDR, members of their embassy staff and British subjects temporarily resident in East Berlin.

During the service wreaths were laid by Chief BRIXMIS, Lt Col Bailly for 1 GLOSTERS, Lt Col Casbolt for 1 BW, Maj Hill for 1 KOSB, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the GDR and the Commonwealth Ambassadors, followed by the playing of the Last Post by a 1 KOSB bugler. The service was concluded by a piper of 1 KOSB playing a lament.

At one time BRIXMIS used to take a full Regimental band across to Stahnsdorf, and a large number of local people would crowd into the cemetery to join in the service. But since 1979 the GDR authorities have cordoned off the area to keep people out. Many people come all the same to watch and listen from a distance.

How well do you know Berlin?



Over the next three weeks, we are running a competition to test your knowledge of Berlin

for which you could win a copy of Penny Croucher's book 'Know Berlin — A Guide to Unknown Treasures'. The publishers, Haude & Spensersche Verlagsbuchhandlung GmbH, have kindly offered fifteen copies of these useful and informative books as prizes.

You can enter all three parts of the competition but please only give one answer per entry coupon.

All you have to do to enter the competition is to read a short description about a well-known Berlin personality or place and then guess who or what is being written about. Then fill in the answer in the box provided together with your name and address. Follow this procedure for each of the three weeks that the competition runs. Then send in your three answers together to: Berlin Bulletin, HQ Infantry Brigade, BFPO 45. All entries should be received by Friday, 11 December.

'Know Berlin — A Guide to Unknown Treasures' is on sale at the YMCA Bookshop.

How well do you know Berlin? (1)

Despite his great affection and understanding for the people of Berlin, the artist whose name you should find out was not a native of the city, but was born in Radeburg, Saxony in 1858.

His father, a watchmaker and goldsmith, landed himself in debt and in order to escape his creditors moved his family to Berlin in 1867 where he hoped to make a fresh start in life. However, there were thousands of workers flooding into the rapidly expanding city and the family experienced hard times. They lived in an unfurnished cellar and the artist's mother had to work from home to make sufficient money to support the family. While he was still at school, he was also earning a little money running errands and doing odd jobs.

He left school in 1872 and having already discovered his love for drawing, against his parents' wishes (who wanted him to work in a butcher's) he set out on an apprenticeship as a lithographer, continuing his lessons at art school in the evenings. Five years later, having completed his training, he started work at a photography company where he was to stay for thirty years.

During these years he spent most of his free time travelling to the working class areas of north and east Berlin where he sat for hours simply sketching and observing the people and the life around him. In 1901, some of his drawings were exhibited for the first time in a small gallery in Kantstrasse, but at this time being an 'artist' was just a sideline for him. It was only when he was dismissed from his job in 1907 that he realised his true artistic mission in life and turned to freelance work. His work was accepted by many well-known magazines and journals and he also had his own illustrated books published. He became friends with a number of artists, sculptors and writers

who were critical of contemporary social conditions.

To begin with, many respectable Berliners were shocked at his critical attitude and his racy style. His satirical drawings on the subject of the First World War and some of his more explicit work were not deemed suitable for publication. However, after the war a new wave of liberalism spread through Germany and the artist was gradually accepted as an established figure. In 1921 the Nationalgalerie put on an exhibition of 115 drawings, engravings and sketches and in 1924 he was accorded the honour of being elected 'Member of the Academy'. The illustrator of Berlin's proletariat had become a professor!

Just as Charles Dickens captured the essence of nineteenth century London in his books, so this graphic artist has become the most popular delineator of Berlin life at the turn of the century. His drawings and sketches have caught the imagination of successive generations and are today reproduced on posters, tea-towels, aprons and beer-mats as souvenirs. In West Berlin the largest exhibition of his work is on the top floor of the Berlin Museum, Lindenstrasse 14, Kreuzberg.

What is the artist's name?

How well do you know Berlin?

The answer to Question 1 is:

Name _____
 Mil. Address _____

 Tel. _____ (days)

Bonfire Night



For once the weather was kind for Bonfire Night so Berliners and British were able to enjoy a blazing bonfire and plenty of tasty eats and drinks in the relative mud-free comfort of the Mafeld.



★ German Holiday ★

The Berlin Bulletin office will be closed on Wednesday, 18 November. Items for inclusion in the issue, Friday, 20 November must reach the office by 1200 hours, on Monday, 16 November.

Late entries will not be accepted!

Need Information?



Fifth Floor Summit House

Open:

Tuesday—Saturday 0930—1300 hours
 Tuesday and Friday 1415—1630 hours

Tel. 309 51 43

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A Spirited Story of Life in the Nazi Years

'The Naked Years' is Marianne Mackinnon's (nee Gärtner) vivid account of her formative years spent in Nazi Germany.

Her earliest recollections are those from the Berlin Olympics of 1936 and she later tells of the time when she was proud to represent Germany in the European Youth Championships in Italy. Though she can't realize it then, her athletic prowess later saves her life as Russians begin to occupy Posen, the small town (now in Poland) in which she was working. This escape to Berlin makes riveting reading and highlights the spirit and courage of a young, lone girl anxious to survive. The same spirit and single-mindedness carries her through the post-war years of working for the Allies amidst near starvation and malicious rumours.

Marianne Mackinnon, now living near Glasgow, tells not only of her plight but also

pain, an often grey, sometimes bright, but always lively portrait of hardships endured by her fellow Germans during those turbulent years.

Her book is easy to read and even essential reading for those interested in learning about what it was really like to live under the Swastika and in a desperately depressed and hungry country after the war.

The YMCA Bookshop in Summit House (first floor) is selling Marianne Mackinnon's spirited story of 'The Naked Years', price DM 40.50. If you would like to meet the author and buy a signed copy of the book go along to the YMCA on Saturday, 28 November between 1030 and 1500 hours. Ms. Mackinnon is also speaking to 'Wives' Clubs about her experiences so consult your notice-boards for more information.

Don't make it easy for the thief . . . How to be a good neighbour

When your neighbour is away his home is vulnerable. Here are ways in which you can help protect it.

Make sure as often as you can that:

No letters, circulars etc. are left sticking out of the letterbox.

No FRIS deliveries are left on the doorstep.

All doors and windows to the home and cellar cages are secured.

Please note that on some houses, the window shutters lock. These afford extra protection — so check to see if they can be locked securely.

If you are suspicious of any incident or caller, dial 309 43 21-5, the RMP Control Room and report the circumstances giving as much information as you possibly can.

Mitsubishi Motor (Berlin)

are looking for a **sales person** to run their Berlin Office. Previous experience is not essential as full training will be given. Company car provided.

For further information contact
Pat Clash — Tel. 332 50 68

Cheque for Charity

The Station Commander of RAF Gatow recently received a cheque for DM 1,000 on behalf of the Station Charities Fund from Flt Lt Phil Taylor, who raised the money by running in the Berlin Marathon. The money will be divided between the Save The Children Fund and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Station Commander RAF Gatow receives a cheque from Flt Lt Taylor.

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 The Black Watch

This week has seen the departure from Berlin of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch Regiment. For almost two years they have served with us in Berlin. Many of us have friends and acquaintances in the Regiment, and it is with particular regret that we note the end of the association.

The Regiment came to Berlin in January 1956 from a nine-month stay in Crail, Scotland. Previously it had seen service in Korea and Kenya where it was the first to institute the farm defence system, by which each farm became a self-defended unit. When it replaced the Manchester Regiment two years ago it was in fact, on its second visit to Berlin. Men of The Black Watch were stationed at Montgomery Barracks in Kladow between May and October 1950.

The spectacle of kilted troops with their pipes and drums has always been enthusiastically received by Berliners, and a crowd of 60,000 were present when the Queen's Colour of the Battalion was trooped on the parade in honour of the Queen's Birthday this year. On the evening of the same day members of the Regiment entertained guests at the reception on Jahnplatz with a spirited display of marching and dancing. The soft glow of the lights, the green of the turl and, above all, the stirring performance by the men of The Black Watch made the evening one to remember.

In the field of sport, the prowess of the Battalion has been considerable. During their twenty-two month stay they have won twenty-one inter-unit trophies.

Perhaps their most prized trophy was the Norwegian trophy which they won at the British Army of the Rhine Athletics Meeting for the highest unit aggregate in field events. Thanks to the generosity of the Head of the Norwegian Military Mission in Berlin the Battalion now has a replica of the trophy — a Viking ship — as a permanent record of its success.



Flashback to 1956. Maj E.L. Trotter, MC, is seen receiving the Challenge Cup on behalf of the Battalion, from Maj Gen F.D. Rome, CB, CBE, DSO, at the Berlin Independent Brigade Small Arms Meeting in April of that year.

1967

Combined British — US Exercise

A company of American soldiers joined the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders for a recent three-day exercise in Berlin, while a company of the Highlanders were reciprocally transferred to the American battalion. British officers found themselves commanding American troops, and vice versa.

One of the declared aims of the exercise, code-named Team Spirit, was to give per-

sonnel of both nationalities the opportunity of working together and observing each other's tactics and procedures.

The two battalions swapped their second-in-commands, and this turned out to be no mere formality, as Maj J. Hopkinson, of the Highlanders, explained: "We were not just attached as observers," he said, "we actually did the job. Of course it's one of the few places in the world where we are stationed so close to the Americans".



Members of 'A' Coy, 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders complete their crossing of the River Havel during the recent three-day exercise.

1977

New Families' Centre

'New from old' was the theme at the recent re-opening of the Families' Centre for the 1 GREEN HOWARDS at Montgomery Barracks. Banished was the Dickensian gloom of the old building and by courtesy of the Genie of the Lamp (in this case PSA) a new well-decorated, comfortable image took its place.

The major changes are a new well-furnished Wives' Club Room, a spacious library including a new children's section, which has delighted Mrs. Coyle and Mrs. Moses our librarians, and a custom-built coffee room. Mrs. James, wife of the Commanding Officer 1 GREEN HOWARDS, kindly agreed to perform the opening ceremony.



Mrs. Moses and Mrs. James discuss the children's section in the new library, watched by Mrs. Houbtly.

Judging by the comments of the wives, the new centre should be a success and undoubtedly will be an asset in the long winter months ahead.