

THE JOURNAL OF THE BFES SCEA ASSOCIATION

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2022 AGM lunch to be held at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire on Friday 9th September (see page 12)



Malcolm Brooke plays foolish Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night (with Sir Toby Belch).

We Seek Them Here : We Seek Them There ...

Malcolm Brooke

Malcolm Brooke, who is currently working to upgrade and update the Association's website, began his career with SCEA in Cyprus in 1973. Turbulent times quickly followed with the coup and subsequent Turkish invasion. Deciding not to accept the offer of a posting to Singapore, Malcolm stayed on in Cyprus. In the calmer days that followed he enjoyed all that Cyprus had to offer, acquiring a gliding instructor rating, a love of performing Shakespeare at Curium a FMT600 (so he could play with military Land Rovers in the Troodos Mountains) and a wife!

In 1982 Malcolm moved to Germany and taught at Shackleton School in Fallingbosten but, not being able to match the sartorial elegance of the Headteacher, moved to Lemgo as DHT in 1989.

Four years later with the closure of Lemgo, Malcolm moved as DHT to Charlottenburg School Berlin knowing that it would be for only one year.....but what a year it was. Sue Adams left at Easter leaving Malcolm as Headteacher for one term. His first action as Head was to evacuate the school due to a possible bomb threat.

Malcolm oversaw the hand-over of Charlottenburg to the Berlin British School and locked the doors for the last time in July 1994.

Returning to The Zone (as they said in Berlin), Malcolm was DHT at Sir John Mogg School in Detmold.

Malcolm's growing interest in IT and the imaginative use of computer software led him, four years later, to join the Inspection & Advisory Service as an Advisory Teacher.

Malcolm honestly says that

there wasn't a single morning when he didn't actively look forward to the day ahead. With his colleague, he became part of a compound noun "Bill & Malcolm".

Several changes of title followed but, after eight thoroughly enjoyable years, Malcolm retired in 2006.

In retirement, Malcolm worked for Espresso (online educational content) and visited scores of UK schools where he delivered staff training and school development planning for IT.

Malcolm currently splits his year between his home near York and Episkopi where he can relive his youthful adventures

although now he has to use his own jeep and play older parts at Curium !

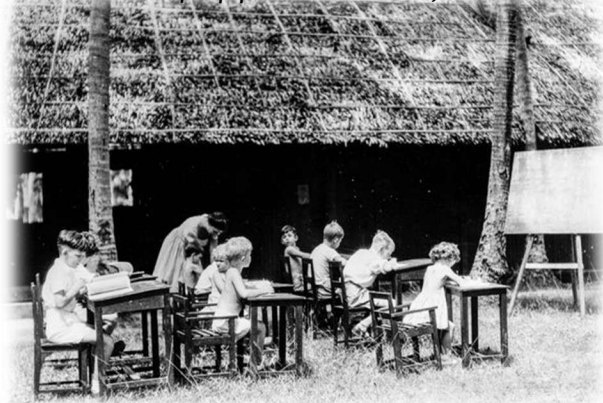
As well as the BFES/SCEA Association, Malcolm is the webmaster for the RAF 49 Squadron Association and two military history websites of his own.

When creating the new Association website, we wanted to compile a full and accurate list of schools and locations. The interactive map can be zoomed and it is possible to mark the exact building or the former location after an area has been redeveloped – try looking at Toucan and Alexandra (Dortmund) schools.

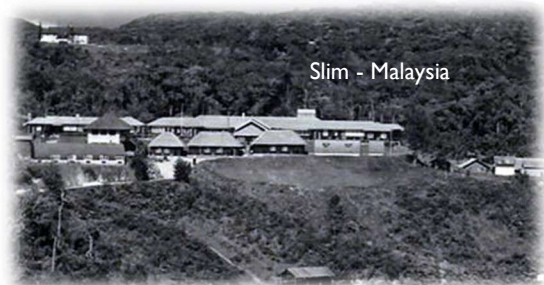
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Infant pupils at RAF Butterworth, 1949.



Since the article was written, Malcolm has received information that locates schools in Khoms, Lohausen, Port Fouad, Ratingen, Sylt, Tobruk and a secondary school in Osnabrück described as being like a PoW camp.



NWE	NWE
Bad Oeynhausen	Liège (Charlemagne)
Bad Salzuflen	Lippstadt
Bad Zwischenahn	Nienburg
Birgelen	Nordhorn
Borgentreich	Oldenburg
Degerndorf	Scharfoldendorf
Düren	Schleswig
Essen	Spandau
Geilenkirchen	St Barbara's, Wulfen
Hilden	St Peter's, Lübbecke
Hook of Holland	Sümmern
Jerboa, Soltau	Wavell, Bergen
Jever	Wetter
Kiel	Wunsdorf
	Wuppertal

Rest of World
Brunei: Berakas Muara
Malta: Luqa Safi
Mauritius: Vacoas
Nepal: Dharan
Norway: St George's
Sardinia: Cagliari
Singapore: Clementi

Using existing documents, a list of approximately 190 school names was quickly compiled. After identifying the location of schools that were familiar to many of us, there was still a lengthy list remaining.

I began to shorten the list by looking east.

I made a really useful contact with the "Memories of Singapore" website. It was enormously helpful that the webmaster could provide a "Families Guide to Singapore", dated 1964. This proved to be invaluable: one page concerned Education, helpfully giving a list of schools and including details of changes proposed for that year.

Further contacts unearthed a guide for RAF families based in Changi, another was for Naval families and, whilst looking for a particular photograph, I discovered a Flickr image of a guide for families in Malaysia.

All these documents provided information that helped build a better picture of the network of schools. Some of our original schools were duplicated in being cited by both name and geographical location and other, hitherto unknown schools, were discovered. Did we know that **Mountbatten** and **Slim** schools were originally in Malaysia?

Forums were another useful source of information. The mention of a school often led to the mention of a garrison or a street name which led to the location of the school. A forum posting with a picture of a school report and a swimming certificate confirmed two

schools whose existence I was beginning to doubt.

After being contacted, the archivist of the RAF Malaysia Association sent an amazing picture of RAF Butterworth School dated 1949 ... what a different world that was!

A comment in a Singapore thread mentioned that they moved to BFG and attended Alexandra Primary in Dortmund ... this school wasn't in our list of BFG locations!

In the reverse direction, a comment in a thread about a school in Germany mentioned a school in Singapore that I had been trying to trace.

Facebook has provided a huge amount of information and page administrators have been kind enough to allow me to join and ask my questions ... even Windsor Girls' School!

A recent run of good contacts has identified schools in Libya, Cyprus, Aden and Hong Kong. The PA for the UNFICYP commander in Cyprus (I know her through organising visits to the deserted airport) confirmed that St Michael's in Nicosia was only a primary school. This was contrary to the author of a blog who described beginning her secondary education there. However, further information has just come to light from a teacher who states that St Michael's did indeed have a Secondary element and pupils were taught there until Year 9 .

Another contact is going to send a register of schools in Germany that is held by the Army Museum in London. The first image of

the document identified schools in locations such as Essen, Mühlheim and the tiny Degerndorf (six pupils).

Perversely, there are still several well-known schools whose location details are not known.

The process has been very time consuming, but the thrill of the chase, the pleasure of finding a link and the joy of discovery have made every minute worthwhile.

I'm certainly suffering a severe case of MSL (Missing School Location) syndrome in that after finding a school, I'm motivated to locate just one more!

The current list of "known-unknown" school locations is shown at left. The dates when they were operating is often uncertain.

In all my years with SCE I have never heard of a school in Nordhorn or the Hook of Holland.

Adding details and images is another matter ... many schools with long and interesting histories have empty webpages.

Hopefully, members will look at their own schools and help us build a fuller picture of each location.

Stop Press: A Facebook message has just appeared informing me that, between 1951-52, the sender attended a school at RAF Habbaniya, Iraq and other messages have confirmed the existence of Nordhorn and the Hook of Holland. I'm currently living in our Cyprus home (Episkopi Village) and a chance conversation with someone identified a school in Limassol that had been forgotten.....and so the search goes on!



Mountbatten - Malaysia



BERLIN – The Closure of BFES Schools in the 1990s and the Creation of the Berlin British School

Colonel R A Field-Smith MBE



I arrived in Berlin in January 1990 to be Commander Education for the British Forces, which involved me *inter alia* being Area Education Officer for the 4 Service Children's schools - Charlottenburg, Gatow and Spandau First Schools, and Havel Middle School. Between them they provided for over 1500 children, with just over 100 staff.

Once the Iron Curtain started collapsing at the end of 1989, and the Soviet Union and its satellites recognised the inevitable onset of democratic freedoms for Eastern Europe, the West German government under Chancellor Kohl moved quickly to see Germany reunified. This was obviously going to mean a change in the status of Berlin, from the 4 Power arrangements set up in 1945, to a resurgent German capital city.

A few months after my arrival the Director of Army Education (DAEd), Major General Stuart Lee, paid a visit, which included a tour of Charlottenburg School and lunch there. Sue Adams, the HT, called me out discreetly to take a phone call from MoD. This was to tell me about a bomb at HQ DAEd in Eltham. All the visit plans were put aside and I spent hours assisting General Stuart to make phone conversations with Army Board members, and his wife, and arranging for him to fly back to London at the earliest opportunity.

On my return from summer holiday in 1990 - where we had taken the chance to visit parts of East Germany and Czechoslovakia previ-

ously barred to British Army personnel - the British Brigade Commander told me that plans were now being put together for the withdrawal of all Allied Forces. I was to prepare the plans for the drawdown of the Service Schools and their eventual closure. I still have a copy of the paper I wrote for the Headteachers – Sue Adams (Charlottenburg), Derek Ebbage (Havel), John Hancock (Gatow) and John Sharpe (Spandau) - with the options. Once the plan was finalized I was then involved in interviewing all the teachers to ascertain whether they wished to return to UK, move to another SCS school, or stay in Berlin.

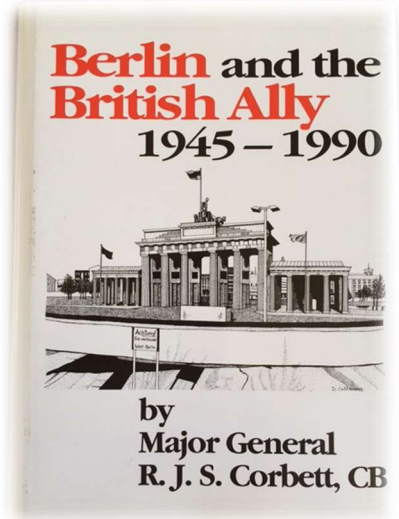
During the latter part of 1990, when the city was handed back to German control at midnight on 2 October, as Germany was united, and into 1991, there was much discussion of how the Allied presence in Berlin since 1945, which had ensured freedom for the West Berliners, should be commemorated. Some talked of a memorial like the Airlift memorial at Templehof, and Major General Robert Corbett, the last British Commandant, wrote a book "Berlin and the British Ally 1945-1990". I helped him with collecting photographs and documents.

It was while working on the plans for the closure of the schools that the idea came to me of creating for the future a school based on the British education model. I gathered support from friends and colleagues, and got permission from the Commander, Brigadier David Bromhead and the Minister, then Mr Michael Burton, to

progress proposals. I identified some key individuals to assist, including local Berliners such as Frau Freymuth-Brumby, and Frau Hanna-Renate Laurien. Michael Berenson, a good friend, who had resettled in Berlin from Canada after WW2 was a great source of advice, especially on e.V and GmbH arrangements. I also made links with COBISEC and visited the British School in Brussels as well as hosting the Chairman in Berlin. One of my other roles was the Brigade Community Relations officer, which gave me easier access to the local German administrative structure, especially in Bezirk Charlottenburg. I also received a lot of help from my Chief Clerk, Brigitte Hurst, who was later to move across as the first school secretary!

It became clear that a good site for a British school would be the Charlottenburg school site, closest to the city centre, and already being used by a not insignificant number of "non-entitled" pupils whose parents preferred a British education and were prepared to pay for it.

By the end of 1991 some concrete proposals were beginning to come together, and I decided to make matters more formal with the



The Last British Commandant Maj Gen Robert Corbett CB pays visits to schools in Berlin in the autumn of 1990 .

Berlin British School Opens

Berlin Bulletin, 16 September 1994

The Berlin British School opened, as planned, on 6 September 1994.

A total of 89 children, from 25 different countries, were on the school roll; the school staff comprised the Headteacher, 4 class teachers, 2 part-time nursery assistants, a part-time teacher of German, and the school secretary.

We are most grateful to all those who have helped to establish the school: the Federal, Berlin and Bezirk Charlottenburg authorities, the Honorary President of the Berlin British School, Dr Hanna-Renate Laurien, our many generous sponsors, the members of the Berlin British School Association, many members of the Berlin Garrison and the British Embassy Berlin Office, a large number of parents, several experts in the field of British schooling overseas who have kindly given much valuable advice and assistance, and, of course, the school staff who have worked hard throughout the summer to get the school ready for opening.

The new, independent school is located on the site of the former Service Children's School, Charlottenburg School, at Dickensweg 17-19. It provides pre-school and primary education for children from both the international and local communities in Berlin. It offers the English National Curriculum plus additional German language, history, geography and culture. It is run according to the British ethos and philosophy of education with emphasis on the development of the whole child as an individual. It functions as an independent registered charity, supported by an Association of business men and women, parents and other interested volunteers.

The fundamental philosophy of the school is to provide for the

The Creation of the Berlin British School contd

creation of a Steering Committee. This took a little while to set up in order to ensure both the right membership, and clarity of authority and responsibility. The first meeting was held in early March 1992, by which time I was due to move on to another post back in UK. So the meeting was held as part of my handover to Tony Brister, who very capably took forward the concept to reality in September 1994. I have a certificate he presented to me earlier that year.

I am obviously delighted that the school is now a strong oak, grown from the acorn planted in the early 1990s. It now has three sites, infant, junior and secondary, and a roll of close to 500 pupils from about 50 different nationalities. By chance a good friend here locally, Sir Francis Jacobs, has had grandchildren in the school!

In November 2019 I was delighted to be invited back to judge the school debating competition as part of the 25th anniversary

celebrations, and present the cup named after me to the winners. It seemed fitting in view of the long but successful debates in the early 1990s which had led to the formation of the school!



Berlin British School Opens ...

development of the whole child as an individual — mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. The school encourages an awareness of world citizenship and will foster links with schools and organisations in the local community, thus helping pupils to learn about Berlin and Germany. Active parental involvement is also strongly encouraged.

Currently the school caters for the British pre-school and primary ranges. Children

enter the nursery at three years of age and the reception class of the primary school at 'rising five'. They will leave 'Year 6' at the age of eleven. Once the school is firmly established and running successfully, it is hoped to develop it into admitting secondary pupils. It is aimed to keep class sizes small in order to facilitate the philosophy of the development of the whole child as an individual.

The school year and holidays will follow the usual pattern for British Schools, normally starting in early September and ending in late July. The school day for the primary school runs from 0830 to 1530 hours. At present the nursery offers morning attendance only.

Further information may be obtained from:
The Headteacher Berlin British School Dickensweg 17 - 19 14055 Berlin Tel: 304 22 05/37 80 Fax: 304 38 56



The Staff of the Berlin British School with Lt Col AWE Brister, Comd ETS/SO1 ETS, and Abhimanyu Chand, the first child to enter the school when it opened on 6 September 1994.



Left to right: Mrs Val Aspden, Headteacher, Mrs Brigitte Hurst, School Secretary, and Frau Bianca Freymuth-Brumby, Chairperson of the Berlin British School Association.



Britische Streitkräfte in Deutschland / British Forces in Germany

Dr. Bettina Blum - Paderborn University

Dear friends, dear supporters of the project "British Forces in Germany",

I wish you, your families, and your friends a very happy and healthy 2022!

As promised, here is an update on the progress of the "British Forces in Germany" project.

The year 2021 was a challenging year for all of us in many ways, and was also challenging for research. Unfortunately, it was not possible to come over to the UK as I had originally planned. But I was able to visit some German archives and was thrilled to find out that the state archives of Lower Saxony in Hannover finally reopened in September after a few years of refurbishing and restructuring. My visits there really were worthwhile, and I found some interesting material, especially with regard to exercises and a bit on the SOXMIS (the Soviet Military Mission). It was also possible to carry out several interviews, either in person or online, and numerous people provided valuable information via email.

I therefore wish to thank everyone involved for your support!

When I went through the material I had gathered, I realized just how much there is and how much fascinating information it contains. So maybe it was not such a bad thing that I was unable to collect more material in the UK during the year but had to first focus on what I already have. I assume that during the writing process specialized questions will emerge which may make it necessary to visit some archives in the UK, but I will then focus only

on what I really need for the book. I hope the restrictions will be lifted soon and that it will be possible to travel in the spring or summer.

I was really pleased that besides the online conferences and workshops, I was also able to visit two on-site conferences in late summer: the European Labour History Conference in Vienna (where I joined the network "military labour" and focused in my paper on German employees working for the British Forces in Germany), and the annual colloquium on police history in Marburg, where I gave a presentation on the collaboration between the British Military and the German civil police. Both conferences were really fascinating, and we all enormously enjoyed meeting "real people" and being able to discuss all the fascinating research questions in "real" discussions after such a long time – especially in the evenings over a beer! The conferences also helped me structure my research and enable me to work out central questions for these aspects.

At the end of the year, I started to develop the structure and main narrative for the whole book and, after a lovely and relaxed holiday, I am now continuing with this task. The focus is on Anglo-German relations, where and when people met each other, what impact that had on a personal and administrative level, and how far the British military and German civilian community influenced each other throughout the decades. There are many stories that can be told here, and all of them are fascinating!

From my point of view, de-

veloping the main narrative is the most challenging task in every project because it always means having to decide which are to be the key aspects, which other aspects can be mentioned, and which must be left out. I absolutely hate having to leave out interesting and important things, but unfortunately, no book consisting of about 200 pages can cover everything. So the next few weeks will be a bit hard for me. Once that is finished, I will then start writing, so that hopefully the draft manuscript will be finished in early 2023, when the project-funding ends.

In the meantime, Roy, Steve, Sarah and I are continuing with our Facebook page which we enjoy. We also enjoy reading the comments and experiences provided by our readers. This also helps with the project. Sarah is also supporting the project at the university. And, last but not least, we continue to meet for a beer or a glass of wine and long discussions (providing there are no restrictions, of course).

In 2020, I started working together with Japanese and Australian colleagues. We are trying to set up a joint follow-up project comparing the allied occupations of Japan and Germany. We have also received funding for a kick-off workshop in Tokyo, but of course this has not been possible so far. We hope that it will be possible in the early summer of this year! In the meantime, we meet online (although the time zone differences are a bit of a challenge) and we have managed to carry out two online workshops with other colleagues working on different occupations,

which has been really helpful.

Once again, I wish to thank all of you for your interest in the project and for your help and support! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, ideas, or comments. I really hope to be able to stay in touch with you!

Very best wishes
Bettina



Photos tnm



Photos tnm

**Coronation
Souvenir
Presented to
Children of
Services'
Schools
Overseas in
1953 ...**



This souvenir booklet - cover above - was presented to Children of Service Schools overseas on the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2 June 1953. This copy was presented to David Henry Hills of St Francis Xavier School in Washington .

It contains pictures taken during the life-time of Her Majesty the Queen.

When she was born, in London, her father was Duke of York. He became King George VI in 1936 and Princess Elizabeth became heir to the Throne. In 1947 she married Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. On the sad death of her father in 1952 Princess Elizabeth became Queen.

She was crowned Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey on June 2nd 1953.

The rest as they say, is history ...

We were saddened to hear of the death of former colleague and Association Member George Andrew. He had been a member of the Association since 1981, and taught in seven MOD schools during his time working with BFES.

George, died peacefully in his sleep on February 8th 2022, aged 90 years. George was comfortable and happy in St Monica's Trust in Bristol, in the same city as his daughter Christine; Mark, his son, visited him regularly from Australia. With their kind permission we can reflect on the highlights of 1996 in George's Xmas missive ...



Highlights of the year - December 1996

Christine successfully completed her dissertation and has been awarded her M.Sc. Her graduation ceremony is due in February in Bristol. Eight more legs joined the family. Bozley and Bootle, two dogs who now run the household in Melbourne and charm Mark and Lizzie. The **Golden Jubilee of the BFES Association** was celebrated in style at the Cafe Royal, some 400 members attended. Now -

how did the reunion go? Well, what a lovely day we had! Up at 5:45 despite the nightmares of missed trains, down to Blackwater station to catch the 7:38 and on to Reading. Glorious morning, sunshine, and blue skies. Neat connection to the Paddington train and in the smoke by quarter to nine. We had contemplated taking a taxi, but Dorothy had sussed out the bus routes and we enjoyed a sightseeing tour, arriving at the Cafe Royal by 9:15. Walked up to the sixth floor, where in the Dauphin and Dubarry Suites all was activity. Exhibition was being mounted on display boards - copies of THE BOOK being set out ready for sale. Programmes, newsletters, and notices to

be folded (x402). One room set up for the AGM, coffee laid out ready for the first arrivals. Dorothy became immediately involved and took over the role of welcoming hostess, greeting people as they arrived, handing them their 'packages' of documents and ensuring that they knew what was where ... and making sure they moved into the room! She had a great time, met everyone, was welcomed, and adopted by the committee and greeted by long lost friends, including Vi Buckley who remembered Mark being born.

Cafe Royal is rather special loads of glass stretching up to the ceiling and chandeliers for Africa some set into the walls ... light reflected ++. A comprehensive exhibition. Fascinating to see and recognise photos from yesteryear, a whole table and display board devoted to **Sennelager Players** which has gone from strength to strength since we began it in 1969. A corner set aside for the sale of first day covers ... philatelists' paradise, another for Joyce Fields to sell her book "A History of Military Personnel's Children's Education 1646-1971". My piece runs from p107 to 112, complete with two photographs. Chuffed! Even bought a copy. Some 400 assembled by lunchtime, before that we had the AGM which we whipped through in 30 minutes, an all-time record. Sherry reception and down two floors to the Empire Napoleon Suite. 400 seated on tables of ten each - quite an achievement...getting friends together and keeping ene-

mies apart! Welcoming Address by Jack Crump who was in Germany at the beginning 1946 ...good food, excellent service, more speeches and then back upstairs to see a twenty-five-minute film on BFES (which we avoided in order to talk). We finally ducked out at about fourish and walked to Covent Garden where Dorothy was intent on finding the Natural Shoe Shop. Thanks to her map reading skills we got there, London had become the centre of the world and every pavement was four and five abreast with strolling tourists. Straight on a train at Paddington and home by 6:45.

In his Christmas 1996 missive George went on to include the piece he wrote for Joyce Field's book mentioned above ...

TWO TOURS. 1958- 1963. 1967-1975.

Arriving in Germany in 1959 I spent a few weeks in the Teachers' Mess and then moved into a quarter. One of the first couples I met were Frank and Vi Buckley, who invited me round to their house to see a football match on television. It was the beginning of a friendship which was to last 16 years. The school at Ratingen was situated just outside the city of Dusseldorf. Neil Watts was the head when I arrived: he moved to Sennelager and was replaced by Frank Eccles. Sport, swimming at the luxurious local pool and an enthusiastic football team occupied time in the extracurricular activities. In addition, the school's first musical sparked a lifelong interest in drama. There

was a magic moment. The admiral, aged eleven, was due to arrive and he was preceded by the pianist playing 'Hearts of Oak'. This was greeted by continuous applause from the audience to the astonishment of the boy who was playing the part. I moved from there to St. Patrick's School at Rheindahlen, as deputy head with Marget Pyman as head. This was an experimental school as far as the age range was concerned, covering upper infants and lower juniors. We introduced several controversial items into the curriculum, a new (another) handwriting scheme being successful. A memorable school musical production which involved all the children, a host of green and blue figures flitting in and out of strobe lights to Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyrie'. I was there for four terms, travelling daily from Dusseldorf to Rheindahlen in the military bus, a journey which could take two and a half hours when the fog came down. An unhappy record was achieved the day twenty-four accidents were counted. After a year it became apparent that my chances of being allocated a quarter were negligible and I was offered, by Frank Buckley, the deputy headship of Cologne School. Here I was given the senior class,

ages ranged from eleven to fifteen. The house we were allocated was enormous, not on the campus but in the local German residential area close to the river. A hectic period. I captained Cologne Cricket Club, where we hosted a range of sides from the U.K. Bill Crozier used to appear when he had finished his Sunday 'job' of presenting 'Family Favourites' and he relayed the scores when the Cricketers Club of London were with us for our Cricket Week. British Forces Network was situated within walking distance of our house, and we established links with the staff, which resulted in an invitation to take part in their sports programmes, alongside a young second lieutenant named Barry Davies, who can now be heard commenting on a variety of sports on television. I also wrote for Deutsche Welle and took part in their English for Schools programmes. Pursuing a career in radio I returned to the UK in 1963. Three years later I was back in Germany.

After the usual Eltham Palace interview I was offered a post as Head of the English Department at Sennelager School by Neil Watts. A rewarding three years both in school and on the base. The pony club proved to be a great haven for our two children, Christine and Mark. Having been inspired by a hirsute young enthusiast, Peter James, then at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, during a week's drama course in the U.K. I discovered a small lecture room on camp; ninety seats, banked so that there was a clear view of the stage from everywhere. The stage was the problem, there was only limited access from the back. When I talked this over with the quartermaster,

Don Langdon, he made light of the situation and promptly arranged for the removal of most of the back wall. So, the first of the drama groups I was able to establish began. "My Three Angels" became the first of four plays we put on that year. The most memorable being Alfie.

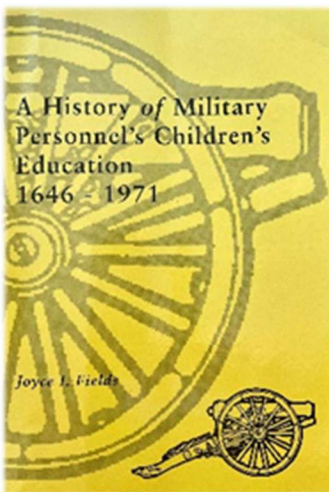
In school the enormous attic became a drama studio, where visitors were not allowed to watch, they had to take part. One high level educationalist made a memorable horse during a Shakespearean workshop which included a witches' scene, not just three witches, there were more than twenty dancing round the pot casting their spells. S.R.A. laboratories were introduced and proved popular and successful. I enjoyed working with the head of the maths department, 'Geoff Budd. The way we complemented each other was obviously noted by Frank Buckley and we worked 'in harness' for several years, moving to headships in neighbouring areas. In 1969 I was interviewed for the headship of Soltau School, a post I took up in January 1970. I travelled up during the worst snowstorm I had experienced, the only car on the autobahn for most of the journey. The playgrounds didn't become visible until March, the snow refusing to thaw. My introduction to the school was a warm one, the previous head, Mike Woods, had established an exceptional art and craft base to much of the school's curriculum and it was a joy to take over such a delightful building. Four teachers, five classes, the fifth was mine with Nancy Gingell, the local brigadiers wife as my co-partner, taking the class in the afternoon enabling me to deal with the routines of running a school

Coronation School List

GERMANY	
ARMY	Guetersloh
Koblenz	Rotenburg
Hook	Aurich
Wetter	Bremervoerde
Iserlohn (Infants)	Wilhelmshaven
Iserlohn (Junior)	Soltau
Hubbelrath	Goslar
Menden	Buxtehude
Bad Honnef	Frankfurt
Wildenrath	Wesendorf
Ahlhorn	Goettingen
Hilden	Hameln
Krefeld	Lueneburg Nursery
Mulheim	Lueneburg Primary
Wuppertal	Oldenburg Nursery
Troisdorf	Oldenburg Primary
Munchen-Gladbach	Fallingbostal
Dortmund	Nienburg
Ratingen	Jever
Cologne	Munsterlager
Hamm	Delmenhorst
Warendorf	Verden
Gelsenkirchen-Buer	Wunstorf
Buende	Belsen-Hohne
Bad Rothenfelde	Fassberg
Luebbecke	Brunswick
Lippstadt	Hildesheim
Bad Salzuflen	Hannover Nursery
Osnabruck	Hannover Infants
Sennelager	Hannover Junior
Minden	Essen
Detmold	Celle
Bad Oeynhausen Infants	Bueckeburg
Bad Oeynhausen Junior	Kiel-Holtenau
Herford	Alsterdorf
Muenster	Neumunster
Bielefeld	Sylt
	Blankenese

Coronation School list continues on pages 8 & 9 ...

Mary Lappage who taught in Sennelager (1964-1968) recalls that Joyce arranged several reunion lunches at Hull University, the last one around 2006. Photograph below of Joyce (seated) signing a copy of her book at the 2003 York reunion. Mary has heard nothing of her since 2006, and your editor would welcome any further details of Joyce ... hopefully she is still busy with her writing.



Harvestehude
Uetersen
Rahlstedt
Bergedorf
Othmarschen
Hamburg Primary
Hamburg Secondary
Spandau
Davoser
Gatow
Koenigsallee
Herthastrasse
King Alfred School
Prince Rupert School

HOLLAND

ARMY
Hook

BELGIUM

ARMY
Antwerp

EGYPT

ARMY
Fayid Infants
Fayid Junior
Fayid Secondary
Moascar Infants
Moascar Junior
Moascar Secondary

Suez

El Ballah

Tel-El-Kebir

R.A.F.

Abu Sueir

Abyad

Deversoir

Fanara

Kabrit

CYRENAICA

ARMY
Benghazi Infants
Benghazi Junior
Benghazi Secondary
Barce

Derna

Tobruk

TRIPOLITANIA

ARMY
Tripoli Infants
Tripoli Junior
Tripoli Secondary
Sabratha

Homs

R.A.F.

Idris

CYPRUS

ARMY
Nicosia Primary
Nicosia Secondary
Famagusta Primary
Famagusta Secondary

Limassol

Larnaca

MALTA

ROYAL NAVY
R.N. School, Malta
ARMY

St. Andrews

Tigne

Imtarfa Primary

R.A.F.

Safi

Luqa

TURKEY

ARMY

Ankara

Istanboul

EAST AFRICA

ARMY

Nanyuki

Athi River

Gilgil '

R.A.F.

Eastleigh

MAURITIUS

ARMY

Vacoas

for the first time. It was a happy period. We experimented by dividing the school into four for art and craft afternoons, family grouping of 100 children. Outside school, I started the second of my Drama Groups. This one in conjunction with the neighbouring Münsterlager, where Geoff Budd had been appointed head and became, for the second time, stage manager of 'My Three Angels'. We were honoured to be offered the magnificent local newly built German theatre in Soltau for our production, where we followed an appearance of the Vienna Boys' Choir. Two of the local German girls acted in the play.

I was woken up early one morning with the news that the school was on fire. We lost the roof and the damage to the building was compounded by the water damage when the rains came before the covers were on. A reassuring phone call came from the director Eric Lowe, who calmly said "You appear to have been baptised by fire". We were soon back in action and functioning with a welcome mixture of sympathy and support from 7th Armoured Brigade HQ.

While we could have stayed in Soltau until we retired, because of the excellent relationship between the school, the garrison, and the links with the local population, it was not to be. I was asked whether I would accept the headship of Suffolk School in Minden and we moved to a quarter in Bückeberg in 1971. I joined the school at the same time as a new deputy head who had arrived from the Far East, Geoff Bland. Together we were able to draw on our experience of broadcasting and set up our own 'station' in the school. This was 'built' by

the sixth form at Queens School Rheindahlen. The children quickly became familiar with the equipment and the techniques and interviewed visitors, built programmes, and broadcast to the school. Yes, the third Drama Group was founded, and performances took place in a deconsecrated church as well as the school hall. 'Billy Liar' and 'There's a Girl in My Soup' were well received, the latter winning an award at the annual adjudication. Suffolk School didn't go up in flames. Quite the reverse. Following an exceptionally cold night when there was some twenty degrees of frost, the pipes burst in several places and the school was flooded. The most dramatic effect was in the assembly hall where the beautifully polished and maintained floor looked like a range of hills, with peaks some ten feet high. For the second, but not the last time, I had to close a school. In 1973 news arrived that a new open-plan school was being built at Enger, just outside Herford. An interesting challenge. When it was advertised, I applied and was successful. One of my final acts at Suffolk School was to call Geoff Bland, the deputy into my office. When he came in, I invited him to sit in my chair and I was able to tell him, thanks to a message from Frank Buckley, that he would be sitting there when the new term began. Initially the move was to Herford where the population of the Fleming School was being housed. The other school in the same camp was Lister and the head was Geoff Budd. We were to find ourselves as neighbours yet again, this time living four doors apart in Bad Salzuflen. Another exciting period. Mike Bennett was the deputy head and much of the organisation for the

move had been undertaken by him. A year later he was appointed to the headship of Fallingbostal School, to be replaced as deputy head by Val Ware.

The new school at Enger was a revolutionary design, open plan with central community areas for infants, lower juniors, and upper juniors. Carpeted, curtained home bases and separate sections for art, craft, and library. HRH The Princess Anne was due to visit one of the local regiments and I asked whether it would be possible for her to officially open our new school. This was agreed and the ceremony duly took place on the 27th March 1974. After the unveiling of the commemorative plaque and the signing of the visitors' book Princess Anne toured the building talking to all the staff and many of the children. What we hadn't bargained for was the arrival of the television crews from the English Channels and from German Television. They were packed into a corner of the hall and the film shown on the television news that night completed a memorable and successful day.

In 1975 I returned to England to take over a new open-plan school in Hampshire.

The rest as they say, is history.

We're fortunate again to have Mark; here from Melbourne ... a real Christmas bonus. Christine has been able to arrange her leave so that we will be en famille over the festive week, with Seamus providing the added incentive for the winter walks through the woods to the lake...where Seamus having rounded us up during the walk, then has to have sticks thrown into the water so that he can earn his keep by working...collecting four sticks at

The rest as they say, is history - concludes



The Opening of Fleming School - Enger
Left to Right - George Andrew, HRH The Princess Anne, Mike Bennett and Nigel Cooper ...

a time before returning to the bank. Dorothy has taken over the post of secretary to the Country Dancing group while

I have accepted the post of Membership Secretary of the BFES Association ...currently I'm attempting to put all 750+ members

on the AppleMac. Dorothy stays fit by dancing, walking and riding her bike...I have to resort to more artificial means and have joined 'images', the local leisure centre where I can use the torture machines while plugged in to the TV, so that the pain is abated by Sky News...at least that's the theory. Mark has joined me on several occasions and enjoys the steam room sauna and jacuzzi...mind you he does complete a

workout first. In addition (unbelievably) there are now no smokers in the family. May 1997 be an 'Annus Glorianus' for you and yours...we'll raise a glass to you on New Year's Eve.



Begrueßung in der neuen Schule



Above - the Princess Elizabeth visits children of the Royal Naval School at Malta in 1949.



A bouquet for the Princess from a pupil of the Royal Naval School at Malta 1949.



Above - the Princess's first Coronation procession: a scene at Admiralty Arch in 1953.



School children in Canada see their first Princess.

- SINGAPORE**
- ROYAL NAVY
- R.N. School, Singapore
- ARMY
- Alexandra Infants
- Alexandra Junior
- Alexandra Secondary
- Grammar
- Alexandra Secondary
- Modern
- Selarang
- Tanglin
- Nee-soon
- Blakangmati
- R.A.F.
- Changi
- Seletar
- Tengah
- MALAYA**
- ARMY
- Ipoh
- Johore
- Kuala-Lumpur
- Penang Primary
- Penang All Age
- Seremban
- Taiping
- Fort Dickson
- Cameron Highlands
- Tampin-Kluang
- R.A.F.
- Butterworth
- HONG KONG**
- ARMY
- Whitfield Barracks
- Fort Stanley
- Gunclub Hill
- Victoria
- Minden Row
- Sek Kong
- BURMA**
- ARMY
- Rangoon
- WEST AFRICA**
- ARMY
- Accra
- Kaduna
- Lagos
- Freetown
- Takoradi
- Kurnasi
- AUSTRIA**
- ARMY
- Klagenfurt
- Graz
- Spittal
- Vienna
- Zeltweg
- Lienz
- TRIESTE**
- ARMY
- Trieste
- JAMAICA**
- ARMY
- Jamaica
- CEYLON**
- ROYAL NAVY
- Colombo
- Trincomalee ~
- R.A.F.
- Negombo
- IRAQ**
- R.A.F.
- Habbaniya
- JORDAN**
- R.A.F.
- Amman
- ADEN**
- R.A.F.
- Khormaksar
- Steamer Point
- FRANCE**
- R.A.F.
- Fontainebleau
- BRITISH ISLES**
- ARMY
- Duke of York's
- Royal Military School,
- Dover, Kent
- Queen Victoria
- School, Dunblane,
- Scotland

The Army Children's School, Larnaca

A memory - David Arden

**BFES/SCEA New
Guest members –
(Members since 28th
November 2021 up un-
til 7th March 2022.)**

Again, there has been a welcome surge in new members applying to join the Association since the last Journal was published, and we offer them all a very hearty welcome. Of the 102 new members listed below, many are ex-pupils, some are ex-teaching staff and others are connected to Service Children's Education in a variety of different ways. Nearly all applied to join the Association through the website, demonstrating the reach of technology across the globe, as we now have over 50 members living overseas. Seeing our Association grow, rather than decline, offers great encouragement for the future. Let's hope it continues with all members enjoying the benefits of being part of a long serving tradition.

I was posted to ACS Larnaca in April 1964, the early morning journey from Akrotiri to Larnaca was memorable for the fact that all the orange groves were in full bloom.



At that time Larnaca was an overflow town for the main base at Dhekelia and had a fair number of Service families living in it. The school was situated on the Nicosia Road on the edge of Larnaca and consisted of a large building which housed a hall, a classroom, store rooms and an office. There were also several Nissan huts used as classrooms and a small house which served as a staff room and further storage. The Headmaster was Mr. Andrew Mathieson DFC, a former R.A.F. bomber pilot and I think there were a further 5 or 6 members of staff. The

caretaker and cleaners were all local Cypriots. I think there were around 150 children at the school and they were bussed to school by the Lefkaritis Bus Company in old English Bedford buses.

Summer hours were eight to one and the rest of the year normal 9 to 4 with a break for lunch.

The usual curriculum was followed with one or two interesting variations.

Larnaca being a seaside town swimming lessons were taken on a local beach, the children being taken there by the ubiquitous Bedford buses. Football was played on a pitch at the Danish UN Camp on the Larnaca By-pass again using the Bedford buses.

Two sections of a covered walkway were converted



into a small menagerie, the first part housing guinea pigs, tortoises and a rabbit and the second part a collection of birds. The children could go in, under supervision, and handle the animals and feed them. I recall once taking my class to Nicosia for the day and visiting a farm on the outskirts where the children fed bunches of clover to the cows. We later ate our packed lunches in a local park where I was pleased to discover that all the swings, slides and roundabouts had been made in my home town of Kettering!

Once a week Brownies and Cubs met in the School and a soldier from Dhekelia came down one afternoon a week in the Summer and gave the boys boxing lessons. I remember that at one time we had nine sets of twins in the school and these were photographed for the Army newspaper.

In 1967 the number of troops in Dhekelia was cut back and there was no longer need for a school in Larnaca and it closed in July of that year.

Graeme Aldridge, William Anderson, Marilyn Addison, Terence Anderson, Jill Armstead, Anne & David Barton, Ron Basnett, Lawrence Bawden, Isabel Bekircan, Stephen Bridgewater, Rosemary Bignell, Penny Buckley, Francesca Bell, Daniella Bullock, Susan Cherry, Jane Compton, Gill Connan, Valerie Cook, Mike Cowley, Sian Coggins, Penny Croft, Janice Crotts, Karen Cooper, Eileen Cooper, Jane Connelly, Nick Ellery, Sam Easton, Linda Emsley, Janice Fehribach, Erik Farr-Voller, Lynn Farndon, Matthew Gregson, Grace Grane, David Green, Irene Golding, Robert Grigsby, Mike Hagen, Jenny Hawthorne, Maggie Harris, Tom Hayden, Susan & John Herlihy, Sheila & Charles Howard, Sylvia Holt, Ruth Hunt, James Hynes, Susan Ivatt, Paul Jenkins, Molly Johnson, Liz Johnson, Richard Jones, Stephanie Keenan, Louise Kidd, Pat King, Penelope Kirk, Judith & David Lee, Ann Lyon, Sue Marrable, Lesley Mattear, Frances Mitchell, Karen Markwell, Sue Maycock, Ken McCulloch, James McGrane, Linda Miller, Frances Mitchell, Sally Mohan, Giles Morgan, Jane Myers, Heather Nichols, Ann Obrien, Kay Page, Alison Pearce, Richard Powell, Ann-Marie Power, Patricia Reed, Judy Rees-Jones, Jaqueline Richardson, Deborah Ratcliffe, Justine Rimell, Kim Rayner, Lindsey Rutherford, Caroline & David Riley, Ian & Lynn Rowles, Hilda Schorah, Susan Shepherson, Kevan Steward, June Slaughter, Christine Smith, Margaret Thorpe, Martin Truscott, Peter Thomas, Geoff & Sue Telling, Arthena & Tom Trevitt, Lynda Turner, Susan Ware, Anne & Grant White, Jeannie Whybrow, Judith Williams, Karen Williamson, Ron Wallace, Debbie Wiles, John Walker.



Trish Walker

Where ~~did~~ teaching take you?

From Cyprus to Germany, Italy to Canada, SCE opens up a world of opportunities.

We provide education for children of British Service and MOD civilian personnel living abroad. Teach with us and you'll embark on a new adventure, live life in a different culture and have experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.

As well as high-quality training and support, we offer excellent financial packages including Overseas Teachers' Recruitment and travel allowances. So visit www.sceschools.com/recruitment and see where teaching can take you.

Working for the MOD will give you excellent career development, high-quality training and a generous financial package, including Overseas Teachers' Recruitment Allowance.

SERVICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Cyprus is just one of the countries in which you could teach with SCE.

I was floating gently on my back, gazing up to a brilliant sun in the bluest sky I'd ever seen. Then suddenly it hit me - I forced my feet down to the sandy sea bed and jumped high into the air (I was a lot younger then!) shouting "I'm being paid for this!" then felt a fool and subsided back into the sea.

I had arrived at Akrotiri airport in Cyprus the previous Thursday and had been given a warm welcome by the head, Geoff Walker (who became my husband 14 years later). This was Monday, so I should by now have been up at St Johns School doing whatever it is that deputy heads do, but I'd never been one before so thought I'd wait for some guidance. This was a bank holiday Monday, so I was making the most of an unexpected day off before getting stuck in the following day.

My experience that long

ago morning was typical of the two sides of life that St Johns represents - doing your very best at the job you have been carefully selected for, and on which you are constantly monitored, while at the same time fully appreciating all that life on the island has to offer. I know that its commonly believed that teaching in Cyprus is a bit of a doddle, but this very quickly proved, and continued to demonstrate throughout my time there, that this is simply not the case. It's simply a matter of getting the correct balance between work and play-as is the case everywhere else.

Life at St Johns proved to be surprisingly similar to life in any typical UK school. Of course, there is the well known fact that school finished at 1.30. Not, as some people believed, so that we could all slope off to enjoy an afternoon down at

Tunnel Beach, but for the very practical reason that life throughout the island shuts down in the afternoon - it would be too hot to work and there would be no coach drivers available later in the day to get the students home to their far flung quarters - they too were having their afternoon break.

In fact, I quickly worked out that this version of school hours ran very efficiently - the students were bright eyed and bushy tailed at 7.30, the start of their working day and beginning to flag a bit when school ended at 1.30, which applied to the staff too! Moreover, we avoided a full length lunch hour, that lengthy pause in the middle of the day which gives some students little to do but get into arguments, fallings out and general mischief, all of which tend to spill over into their afternoon lessons. At St Johns students enjoyed their two quick

breaks and they got back to work reasonably quickly and I was left with no lunchtime "incidents" to sort out.

We adhered closely to the National Curriculum, more closely I now know than many schools in the UK. Our INSET was carefully planned and frequent, with many trainers coming out from the UK and Germany to ensure we were kept absolutely up-to-date. We were subject to the same curriculum requirements and the same public exam regulations as schools in the UK and this worked pretty well. We always felt that being based 2000 miles from the UK brought very few problems indeed.

We had to stick closely to the exam timetable laid down by the various exam boards, but apart from having to organise

The 2022 Annual Reunion Dinner: The Abbey Hotel, Worcestershire : 9th September 2022

We are very pleased to be able to mark the resumption of our main social activity, the Annual Reunion Dinner and AGM, at the attractive venue of The Abbey Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire on Friday 9th September 2022 between the hours of 11.00am and 4.00pm.

The hotel is situated in the very heart of the town immediately adjacent to the Priory Church, and across the road from the Festival Theatre buildings. It sits at the foot of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with the many attractive walks which so inspired its most famous resident, and Britain's most popular composer, Sir Edward Elgar. Nearby are the Morgan Factory Works, the makers of the hand-made quintessentially British Sports Car. Tours are available around the works, but a visit to the showroom area itself can be worthwhile. The Elgar Birthplace Museum is a short drive away, and the Cathedral City of Worcester is just 7 miles distant. For the more agile of our members, the walk to the top of The Worcestershire Beacon will take about an hour of fairly strenuous walking, but a 20 minute hike to the top of the Herefordshire Beacon (known to all as 'The British Camp') is more gentle and will provide the same panoramic view over the Welsh Hills to the West and the Cotswolds Range to the East. Malvern's other main draw is as the site of the Three Counties Showground (2 miles away). I am led to believe that on the same day as our reunion, the Showground will host the annual 'Busfest' where

special buses late in the afternoon for students travelling home after an afternoon exam, the arrangements caused little disruption. And the students had a lovely air conditioned exam room, the only air-conditioned room in the building!

The only time our distance from the UK caused any problem at all was the occasion when a set of papers for one exam failed to arrive in advance of the day in question. After many phone calls and broken promises, they still did not appear, despite the fact that the board assured us they'd been sent and had arrived on Cypriot soil. This is where the typical Cyprus "It's not

what you know, but who you know" came into play. It so happened that a cousin of the head's secretary (every Cypriot has loads of cousins, doing jobs everywhere. It can be very handy) worked in the central post office in Limassol-a quick call to him and miraculously the papers were found and couriered up to school, by the cousin himself.

I must say a word about the students themselves. With very few exceptions they were a delight! They loved Cyprus and the opportunities it gave them, they loved their school and they even seemed to quite like their teachers. They were enthusiastic about the

opportunities that living on the island gave them and there were very few behaviour or social issues.

It's pointless to pretend that teaching at St Johns was exactly the same as in UK- where in the UK would you have geckos dropping off the immaculate ceilings onto the desks, or where else would you see all the ancillary staff carrying steaming pots of food into school to be consumed, outdoors, picnic style at break? But in the ways that really matter in any school - having students who are well cared for and confident, working well, doing their best - life at St Johns took a lot of beating!

Volkswagen Dormobile owners from around the world congregate each year in great numbers.

Malvern is well situated for members to attend, just a 15 minute drive from Junction 7 of the M5. But why not make it a more extensive visit with a stay of 2 or 3 days? There is a nearby train station. Besides the Abbey Hotel, there is a good supply of Hotels in the area, ranging from Premier Inn to The Malvern Spa, the Bank House Hotel (a former home of the novelist Alistair Maclean) and the Cottage in the Woods (often used as a retreat by Margaret and Dennis Thatcher. We are really hoping for a large attendance of members, both new and old.

Throughout the pandemic, we have managed to increase our membership significantly, a sign of the enjoyment and fellowship that came from sharing the experience of working in Service Schools across the world. The annual reunion dinner is our chance to meet up once again, with old colleagues, and develop new friendships all linked by our common and very special bond.

We have, sadly, to face the fact that prices have not remained stable during the last two years, but you will be pleased to know the cost of the meal this year has been fixed at just £35 per

head, you can, as always, be assured of good food and a resumption of wonderful memories. There will be coffee and biscuits on arrival, followed by a short Annual General Meeting. The three course meal will be supported by a very good choice of options. The Hotel has good parking facilities.

The Booking form for this event, along with menu choices, will be attached to the April Bulletin and you will have until 30th June to reserve your place. If anyone needs further information, please e-mail the event coordinator Bill Bowen, on

billandjanbowen@gmail.com



A Year in the Life - Die englische Schule im ehemaligen Lehrerseminar ... Ratingen 1951/2

The building at Mülheimer Straße 47, which today houses the Anne Frank School and the City Archives, was built in 1914 as a training facility for teachers. Construction started in 1912.

In recent decades, it has had an eventful history. A few months before the beginning of the First World War the teacher training centre (teachers' seminary) moved from today's Poststraße to Mülheimer Straße.

Ratingen became a garrison town in February 1915 and in the courtyard of the teachers' seminary farewells took place.

On April 2, 1933, a council meeting took place in the auditorium of the building, at which the National Socialists took over power in Ratingen completely. From 1943 to 1945, the Gestapo headquarters in Düsseldorf was based here.

In 1948, the children of English soldiers from

Düsseldorf and the surrounding area used the building as a school.

The Rheinische Post reported on 31 March 1955 in the local section: "The city of Ratingen is condemned to patient waiting in the matter of a 'teachers' seminary'. The British occupying power has placed its weighty hand on the large-scale building for school purposes, but there are no limits to the hope: the changed legal situation due to the adoption of the Paris

Treaty may cause a sudden release in the not too distant future. Then there will be a favourable opportunity on the school space market in Ratingen, which will put an end to the dire need in one fell swoop."

The history of the house can be read in: Klaus Wisotzky, 75 Jahre Lehrerseminar. Zur Chronik eines Gebäude, in: Die Quecke. Rater und Angerländer Heimatblätter, Nr. 59 (1989), S. 20-23.



In this 1951 photograph
Michael Brown - Carole Paget-Brown
Peter McCarthy - Kurt Skelding - Terry Lee
Peter Clarke - Alana Smith? - David Weston



March 1952 - ED Jones - ET Wanless - GM Horwood - EL Day



Spring 1952 - Boys & Ted Day



March 1952 - Carole Paget-Brown -
Peter Gray - Ana McCabe



Ted Day - GM Horwood - SM Mackintosh



Spring 1952 - Edward Pook - Trevor Walker - Victor Hendricks -
Peter Rasten - Richard Webster



BFES School Teachers on Schoolyard (no Date)



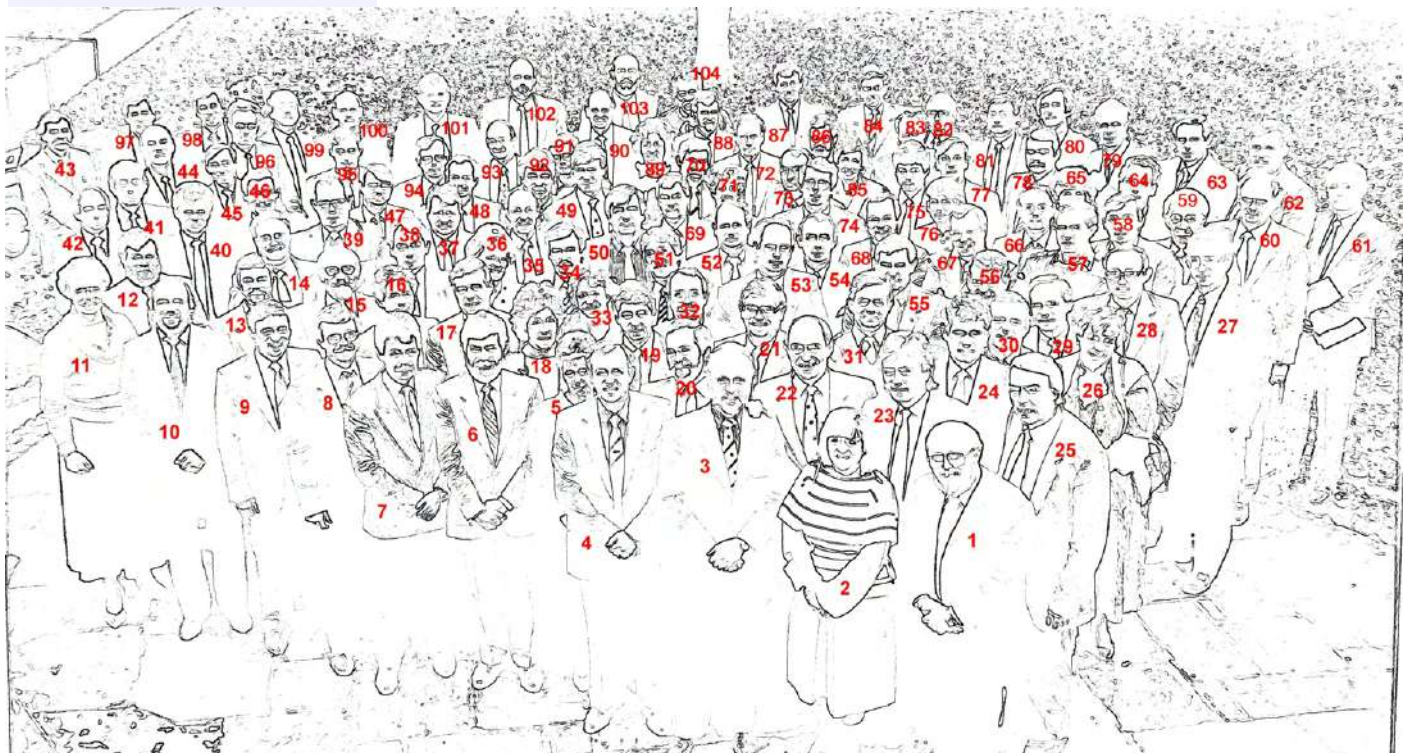
Spring 1952 - Ann Stribling - Jacqueline Campbell -
Betty Scott - Agnes Mackay - Ann Robinson - Ann
MaCabe - Carole Paget-Brown - Jill Cavill Trevor
Walker - Peter Gray



BFES School Mülheimer Str. 47 Ratingen (1955)

Photos courtesy of Heiko Knapstein
Archives of the City of Ratingen
Homepage: <http://www.Stadtarchiv-Ratingen.de>

Are One Hundred & Four Heads Better Than One? - The 1987 Director's Conference at Loccum.



At some stage most BFES SCS SCE teachers will have noticed their headteacher missing from action. Most likely attending a meeting - and once a year perhaps attending the Director's Conference ... For many years these took place during the autumn term at Loccum - on page 14 is the 1987 Conference Photograph - can you identify any of the missing names???. Suggestions to the editor on [bfes_scea_newsletter](#) Thank you.

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|
| 1 Alan Sudron | 42 Wally Lewis | 82 Eric Wilson |
| 2 Miss McKenzie (School Meals Adviser) | 43 Nigel Furness | 83 Ian Jones |
| 3 Mike Bridge | 44 Ken Jones | 84 Geoff Harrison |
| 4 Roger Creed | 45 Denny Woodthorpe | 85 Megan Lawrence |
| 5 Pat Borthwick | 46 Ian Duncan | 86 Harry Wie |
| 6 Mike Harland | 47 Peter Denham | 87 John Russell |
| 7 Harry Turner | 48 Brian Ashton | 88 Graham Carter |
| 8 John Hicks | 49 Robin Cox | 89 ?? |
| 9 Bill Bowen | 50 John Palmer (PEP) | 90 Ian Gregson |
| 10 Alan Aitkin | 51 Stuart Gill | 91 ?? |
| 11 Gill Brown | 52 Peter Williams | 92 ?? |
| 12 John Ireland | 53 Geoff Langworthy | 93 Derek Ebbage |
| 13 Alan Kaye | 54 John Wilcox | 94 Ralph Weeks |
| 14 David Green | 55 Frank McCarthy | 95 Barry Marks |
| 15 John Hancock | 56 Paul Winfield | 96 Jim Lovegrove |
| 16 John Tate | 57 Colonel Tom Sherry OBE, Controller SCEA | 97 Gareth Morgans |
| 17 Mike Bennett | 58 ?? | 98 ?? |
| 18 Judy Miller (Harper) | 59 American Guest?? | 99 Peter Rawcliffe |
| 19 ?? | 60 Bill Batten | 100 Will Andrews |
| 20 Paul Macardle | 61 Peter Ashley | 101 Tim Kilbride |
| 21 Cahill Kennedy | 62 Oswin Hall | 102 Richard Whitehouse |
| 22 Tony Durham | 63 ?? | 103 Phil Nash |
| 23 Arthur Peters | 64 John Lord | 104 Danny Favis |
| 24 Ken Page | 65 Doreen Doggerel (School Meals Adviser) | |
| 25 Tony Stables | 66 David Dawson | |
| 26 ?? | 67 ?? | |
| 27 Peter Kelly ? | 68 Frank Dutton | |
| 28 Charles McNulty | 69 ?? | |
| 29 Tom Nielsen-Marsh | 70 Mike Ward | |
| 30 Geoff Walker | 71 Cyndy Lancaster | |
| 31 Deputy Controller SCEA | 72 Nolan Clamp | |
| 32 ?? | 73 Peter Buckley | |
| 33 ?? | 74 George Young | |
| 34 David Jones | 75 John May | |
| 35 Peter Bentley | 76 Christine Ingham | |
| 36 Mamie Scott | 77 Brian Birkby | |
| 37 Alex Bostock | 78 ?? | |
| 38 John Allison | 79 ?? | |
| 39 Alan Thomas | 80 Eddy Martin | |
| 40 John Hodgson | 81 ?? | |
| 41 Bert Anderson | | |

opposite the Cistercian Monastery (Kloster Loccum) founded in 1193. Loccum itself lies between Hannover and Nienburg - north of Minden.

The five photographs (bottom) were taken on the visit of General Sir Alex Harley Adjutant General to the 1998 Headteachers' Conference. The Monastery can be seen in the background behind his Lynx helicopter.

Pictured with your editor is Frau Julia Wohlgemuth who at the time of SCE's use of the Akademie for conferences and training events was the principal administrator. On this occasion the keynote speakers were Professor **David Jesson** - York University and **Ralph Tabberer** from the DfEE.

More on the Loccum Headteachers' Conferences in the Summer issue.

Loccum - or more correctly The **Evangelical Academy Loccum** is a constituent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover.

The academy has been operating in Loccum since 1952, and is situated

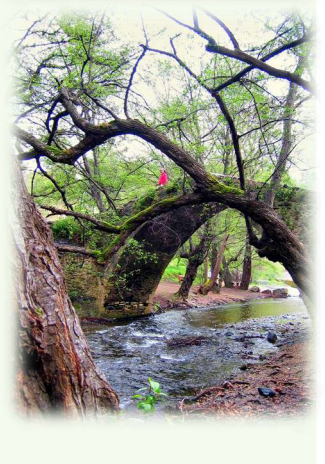


Photos tnm

Teaching - a Life After the Army?

Lance Byrne - A retired army officer and secondary school teacher.

Photos tnm



Cyprus, 1984, a land of sun and sea, work and play, an overseas posting at its best. One which I, then a, single, serving officer with the Royal Signals in Episkopi was thoroughly enjoying. An island to which came a certain SCEA teacher for the posting of her lifetime with the intention of staying for many years. Inevitably there was a meeting of souls in the garrison mess and a date (?) to the cinema where said lady fell asleep – admittedly the average age of the audience watching ‘Greystoke, the Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes’ was somewhere between five and ten – but we needn’t dwell on that! Over the next twelve months this relationship blossomed, turned into a courtship, an engagement and ultimately marriage in Dec ’85. Sarah Daunt became Sarah Byrne, eventually joining me in Dusseldorf and beginning a new career as ‘wife of.....’ Even now, after 35+ years of happily married life with two lovely grown daughters I have not been forgiven for taking her away from her Cypriot idyll. What, however, has this to do with teaching you may ask, well dear readers please read on....

England, 1994, The end of the Cold War, the ‘peace dividend’ and Options for Change – time for a new career? Eight years on, with the children growing up and back in the UK, Sarah was keen to pick up her teaching career. A dedicated teacher and workaholic Sarah need-

ed to be back in the thick of the teaching world. As for me, and many others in the military at the time this was a period of great uncertainty with both promotions and postings unpredictable and unlikely. So, time for a change but what to do? Remember those halcyon Cyprus days where during our courtship I had met many other cheerful and enthusiastic SCEA teachers, helped out at school events with those delightful, polite, eager and well-behaved pupils? Well, after 18 years of rugged army life, commanding men and leading from the front surely teaching would be a doddle - anybody can teach, can’t they?

If only I had known! People did try to tell me. I listened, but did I hear? After all the press was full of pundits explaining how ex-military people could bring in a little respect & discipline, lead by example, provide good role models, etc. etc.; just what the kids needed. So off to do a PGCE and become a secondary Geography and History teacher. Of course, I should have picked up the warning signs after a first placement in a country school where my mentor was apparently suffering from shell-shock and my second placement in a liberal, catholic school where uniform was not worn and homework in KS3 voluntary. Apparently, my university mentors thought after my uniformed, regimented life this would be a challenging environment – I loved it!

With the family settled in the Midlands, Sarah meanwhile had secured a position as a P.E. teacher at a school in Tamworth. Now I had to find a job, not so easy and sadly the potential post at an international school in Cyprus did not materialize. Fortunately, I had a call back for an interview at the same school as Sarah in Tamworth and was duly appointed. Armed with the benefits of my years in the military I entered the classroom. How I hated those first two years, a nightmare. No matter what I did it didn’t seem to work. Where were those delightful, polite, enthusiastic, well-behaved children? How did you get those elusive, all-important results and all that bureaucracy!! Whether or not the children learnt anything is debatable but I learnt a lot; about myself, about leadership, about caring, about relationships, about people and particularly about children; and the wonder they are. I also realized that, never mind Sandhurst, the best preparation a young man could have to become an Army officer would be two years teaching, ideally in a ‘challenging’ secondary school!

So did all those military attributes help? Well yes and no. As regards discipline, not surprisingly, though perhaps not truly appreciated by ‘civvies’. It is self-discipline, teamwork and camaraderie that lead to success in teaching, not the RSM’s shouting nor imposed discipline that

Continued overleaf /

work in the Army. These are things, however, that come with maturity and experience something children don't have. Nor does our individualistic, hectic world encourage the development of these attributes – and it shows. Sometimes you just have to start with teaching the meaning of right and wrong. Motivation takes on a whole new meaning; every soldier is a volunteer doing something they want to do; every child is conscripted and wouldn't you rather be out and about doing something you really enjoyed with your friends rather than being stuck in a classroom all day? Respect too is two-way, something that has to be earned not implied just because you carry rank or are placed in a position of authority and yes, leading by example does work – never ask a child to do something you're not prepared to do yourself, so take that jewelry off, set an example and be the role model. Could I do these things? Did that mili-

tary background help? Well, yes, but then so could most people who wished too. Interestingly though it was not the most obvious attributes that proved the most helpful. What did help was the considerable and varied experience of planning and preparation, organizing and managing, listening and caring for soldiers and their families. These helped with establishing those essential good relationships with pupils, parents, teachers and support staff – that is what makes it work and that is what leads to all those small successes that creep in almost un-noticed: the Year 9 girl who actually brought tears to my eyes by, after a year of ignoring me, actually completing a piece of work over the summer holidays; the Year 11 girl on results day who bounded over full of delight because she had gained a Grade F in her Geography GCSE – the only grade she achieved, all the others being U's; the sixth former,

now a geography teacher herself, who informed me how her first year at university had gone so well because of the analytical and planning skills I had taught her during her 'A' level course (Junior Division of the Staff College proved useful in many ways).

As you may have realized I was never a part of SCEA but I like to think that SCEA showed the way. Did I stick it out? Probably. Well, my third year was an epiphany, things began to work out, my tutor group were delightful (thank you 7B – 'The Barmy Army'). Progress was made and results achieved and, yes, I started to enjoy myself. Sixteen years later I was still there and still enjoying it. I like to think I was well respected and successful but you really need to ask others about that. Was it worth it? - absolutely. Would I recommend it for anyone leaving the forces today – absolutely, but don't expect an easy ride!

As for Sarah, my delightful, workaholic wife well I can't thank her enough for introducing me to and supporting me throughout my teaching years. You may have realized that we actually taught at the same school throughout that time, a potential clash of interests perhaps. All I will say is, ask her about the padlock and chain she put on her classroom doors to keep me out – all I was trying to do was help!

As for Cyprus – well one or both of us still go there every year.

Lance Byrne

A retired army officer and secondary school teacher.

P.S. The views and opinions expressed within are purely my own and I take full responsibility for them and any errors arising. Any grammatical errors are, however, the responsibility of my wife - who still checks my work. Apostrophes always were a mystery.

When **Bill Johnston** made the **SCEA video celebrating its 25 years** he visited Toucan School, Belize; St Christopher's, Gibraltar; British Forces School, Naples; and St John's and Akrotiri Primary in Cyprus - he was vividly reminded of that camaraderie and devotion of the teaching staff. After 13 years as Head of a Northamptonshire primary school he was also reminded of the amazing amount of

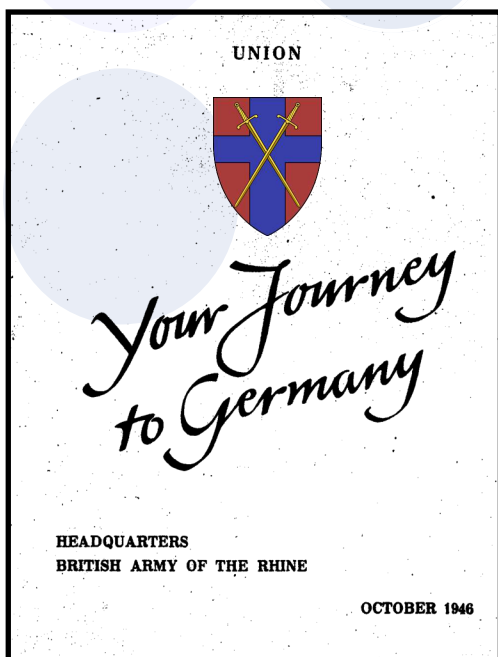
stationery and materials he found in their stock rooms: black sugar paper, worth its weight in gold in the UK, was everywhere! Bill is thinking of a little article about his experiences in making the video. . . He also has a copy of **Tommy Atkins' Children, The Story of the Education of the Army's Children, 1675-1970** which he's kept out of sentimentality because the author somehow came across a picture

of the blackboard Bill updated each morning at **Pasir Panjang Junior School** to inform children as they got off their buses what was going on. He took the pictures himself of the board and was intrigued to find that the photograph on the book's rear cover was taken on the same day as one of his - but he never passed them on to anyone! **Watch out for Bill's story in a future Journal.**



Your Journey to Germany - 1946

With thanks to Paul Macardle



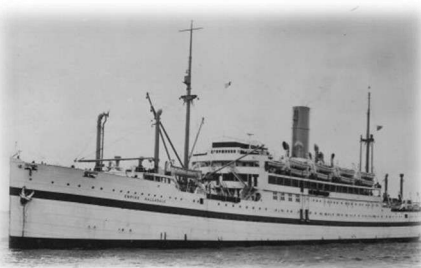
INTRODUCTION

After long months of waiting, you are at last on your way to Germany. We who are there are looking forward to your arrival and we hope that you will have a pleasant voyage.

This small pamphlet has been written in the hope that it will help you on your journey. It describes simply the organisation which has been set up to take you from your ship to your new home in Germany. We hope it will help to make your journey easier by giving you an advance picture of what to expect.

Your Ship

You are travelling on the "EMPIRE HALLADALE". She is 13,600 tons and was formerly the German vessel "ANTONIA DELFINO." She was built in 1922 (and frequently transported eastern European emigrants to Argentina) and now belongs to the Anchor Line.



Ship's Staff

The following staff are on the ship to help you:

The OC Troops

He commands all on board, other than Merchant Navy personnel and is a busy man.

The Ship's Sergeant Major

He is responsible to the OC Troops for the smooth running of military arrangements aboard. If you are in serious trouble concerning ship's arrangements, ask him. But please remember, he too is busy, so do not bother him unnecessarily.

The BAOR Q Movements Liaison Officer (Q(M)LO)

He is there to advise you on

arrangements in Germany. He is there to tell you how you will reach your new home in Germany, and to answer questions with regard to your journey. His main object is to HELP YOU.

Other Important Staff

Normally the following will also be on board to help you:~

Ship's Medical Officer
Army Medical Officer
Dispenser
12 WVS ladies
4. Nursing sisters
4 VADs
4 Company's stewardesses
6 WAAF Provost

The WVS ladies are there primarily to help with the children.

Voyage Hints

As you know, there are few luxury liners available these days and such as there are, are earning valuable assets for Britain. You are not aboard a luxury liner now but a troopship, which has been made as comfortable as possible for you. If there are restrictions which appear to be irksome, remember they are only made in the interest of all, and we know you will happily endure them for the 42 hours of your voyage.

You will find that those with younger children have been given priority in obtaining cabins. As a result, we hope that noisy children will not keep you awake all night.

There is a canteen on board which sells goods for BAQSVs (British Armed Forces Special Vouchers), commonly known as "BAFS."



During the voyage you will be given a Union Jack badge for wear in Germany.

Please do all you can to help the OC Troops and his staff. In return they will do all they can to make your voyage pleasant.

Facilities for Mothers during the Voyage

We hope you will make use of the following facilities which have been arranged to help mothers with small children.

Children's Food Preparation Room

On D Deck mid-ships there is a room where you can prepare your babies' food bottles. A WVS lady will be there to help you if you wish, at six o'clock and ten o'clock in the morning, at two o'clock and four o'clock in the afternoon and at eight o'clock in the evening. If at the beginning of the voyage you will tell the WVS lady your cabin number and how your babies food should be prepared, she will be glad to see that it is correctly made for you if seasickness or any other misfortune should prevent you from doing this yourself.

The Creche

There is a creche on the Promenade Deck, which is open from seven o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening. There is a WVS lady in attendance. You may leave your baby here during mealtimes or at any other time when you cannot conveniently look after it yourself.

The Nursery

Also on the promenade deck there is a Nursery where children up to five years of age may play.

Laundry Facilities

There is a washing room on C Deck, and two drying room; on D Deck. Electric irons for use in the ironing room on E Deck may be had on application to a steward.

Your Arrival

You are due to arrive in CUXHAVEN in the early hours of the second day after you embark. You will receive over the loudspeakers careful instructions about times for breakfast. Listen for these, because if you are late you may find yourself short of time when you disembark.

Those in the same colour zones will feed together so take-particular

note of announcements referring to your colour.

We have tried to make arrangements so that you do not have to get up too early, but on the other hand don't leave things too late and find yourself ordered to disembark with all your packing still to do.

The Disembarkation Programme

The Disembarkation programme is given briefly on pages 13 and 14. For a number of reasons it is liable to change and so you should take it only as a guide. A plan of the Cuxhaven Dock area can be seen on board.



With all your packing still to do

POINTS ABOUT DISEMBARKATION

Your Heavy Accompanied Baggage

This will be stacked by porters in the Reception Hall behind the quays. It will be stacked by colour zones under the initial letter of your name. When you yourself disembark, you will be asked to check that it is all there, and it will then be taken to the baggage van of your train. There will not be time to open your baggage.

Hand Baggage

Fifteen minutes before you are due to disembark you will be asked to proceed to your cabins and to put your hand baggage into the corridor for collection by the stewards who will deliver it to the Purser's Hall.

As you disembark you will pass through the Purser's Hall. A German porter will be waiting there to take your baggage on shore with you as

soon as you identify it.

Disembarkation (other than the GREEN Night Train).'

After passing down the gangway you will be conducted along a passage towards the Reception Hall. At a desk in this passage you will be asked to show your **Military Entry Permit**; so have it ready.

When you reach the Reception Hall you should first go to the booth bearing the initial letter of your surname (your last surname if your name is double-barrelled). There you will receive a slip of paper showing your name, your destination and your seat reservation number.

Your hold baggage will have been unloaded and laid out immediately opposite this booth. You will be led to this baggage which you should identify and then move on. There will not be time for you to open your 'hold baggage. You will pass also the ladies' cloak room, where you may wash and brush up. Next comes the "Officers' Transit Mess," where there is a buffet and a small NAAFI shop. Please pass all these "diversions" as rapidly as you can, and when told to do so follow the signs to your train.

If you are in doubt or difficulty, ask any member of the Movements Control Staff (recognised by their armbands) or at the Information Desk.

Change of Destination

Since receiving your instructions to embark at Tilbury, there may have been a change in your destination in Germany and therefore your colour. If there is, it will be given out on the ship's loudspeakers during the voyage or after docking. If you are unlucky and your colour has been changed you can get a supply of new labels with the correct colour from the Ship Sergeant Major. These new labels will have to be substituted for the old ones on your hand baggage. The Port Commandant's staff will supply new labels for your hold baggage.

Continued overleaf ...

Continued from page 19

The Trains

If your destination is in the green zone you will, travel on the GREEN DAY TRAIN, except those who have to detrain at either DUSSELDORF, ISERLOHN or COLOGNE. These are the most distant stations in the green zone.

The Green Day Train -

The GREEN DAY TRAIN travels via BREMEN, KIRCHWEYHE, OSNABRUCK and MUNSTER to APLERBECK, where passengers for DORTMUND will detrain. There are two restaurant cars in which meals will be available at the following times:

Lunch 12.15 - 12.55 & 1.00 - 1.40

Tea 4.00 -- 4.30 & 4.35 - 5.00

When three sittings are necessary, times will be: -

Lunch 12.00 - 12.40 - 12.45 - 13.25 - 13.30 - 14.10

Tea 3.45 - 4.15 - 4.20 - 4.50 - 5.00 - 5.30

The Warrant Officer in charge of the train will tell you in which sitting you are.

A CVWW Welfare Worker will travel on this train to help you if necessary.

Those of you whose destination is in the white zone will have been guided to a coach which will be detached at KIRCHWEYHE.

If your detraining station is either HERFORD, BIELEFELD, or GUTERSLOH you will find that the portion of the train in which you are travelling is detached at OSNABRUCK. From there these coaches will proceed separately, while the remainder of the GREEN DAY TRAIN continues southward to MUNSTER and APLERBECK.

The Green Night Train

This train goes to ISERLOHN, DUSSELDORF and COLOGNE. It consists of sleeper coaches.

A CVWW Welfare Worker will travel on this train to help you if necessary.

Passengers destined for this train after disembarkation, will be taken in motor coaches straight to the Services Families Hotel, CUXHAVEN, where there are private bedrooms (with hot and cold water laid on), bath-rooms, rest rooms, lounges and nurseries. There is also a NAAFI shop.

On arrival in the hotel, you will be told your room number and escorted by a German girl. You will also receive a slip of paper giving your train berth reservation number. The hotel is opposite CUXHAVEN Main Station from which the GREEN NIGHT TRAIN departs. While you are in the hotel you should ask to be shown your hold luggage which will be in the baggage room. If you cannot find it, you should ask one of the British members of the Hotel staff to report this to the Port Commandant immediately.

At ten minutes to six in the evening you will be asked to come to the Hotel Reception Hall to be ready to go to the station.

On arrival at the station each passenger will find one berth allotted. Be sure you get the right one. If you do not, you may arrive at some strange place to find no husband to meet you. The reason?

The GREEN NIGHT TRAIN drops coaches during the night at various places en route. You can then sleep on until morning in peace. You will understand therefore how important it is that you are in the right coach.

Restaurant Cars

There will be no charge during the journey for meals in restaurant cars, but each person having a meal will be asked for a meal ticket. The cost of these meals will be paid eventually by your husband. Meal tickets will be given to you by the Train Conducting Warrant Officer at the start of your rail journey.

There is wine to be bought for BAFSVs during meals.

A restaurant car normally holds forty-four persons.

Baggage in Trains

Each train has a baggage van with a soldier in charge. He is responsible for seeing that your baggage is put out at the right station, but please, even in the excitement of meeting your husband, go along to the van and check that everything comes out. There is not much time at alighting stations. So please help us by moving yourself, your chattels etc from the train as quickly as possible.

Baggage belonging to GREEN NIGHT TRAIN passengers will be put out in the middle of the night by a special baggage checker for those in "dropped" coaches. It will then be looked after for you until you claim it next morning.

It is essential that baggage is correctly labelled and that your de-training station is clearly marked on each label.

We hope this little pamphlet has been of use to you. If there is anything more-you want to know about arrangements in Germany, please ask the BAOR representative on board. He is there to help you and will be only too delighted to answer your questions.

and now '

We wish you' a pleasant journey and a happy stay in Germany.



Journey's End

Getting to Cologne - 1954 ... Three BFES Experiences

Three BFES Experiences continued

In February of 2021 Bernard Allen wrote briefly about his late wife (then Jean Cotterell) who taught at BFES Cologne from 1954 to 1958, and lived in the Mess in the Volkspark. Bernard was in the army at Wahn, met Jean and married her in 1959. Jean subsequently worked as a teacher in an army school in Catterick, and in BFES Verden. Bernard had begun to write her family history, and, of course, a lot about her time as a teacher. Two parts of Bernard's story have appeared in the Summer 2021 and Winter 2021 editions of the Journal - this is the third instalment in which Jean reaches Cologne.

The standard route in those days was from Liverpool Street station in London to Harwich, boat to the Hook of Holland and onward by colour-coded train to the British Sector of Berlin, elsewhere in the British Zone, Trieste (ceased in 1954) or Austria (ceased in 1955). The stamp in her passport shows she landed at the Hook on 6th September 1954. Being the beginning of the school year, there were presumably a number of new teachers undergoing the same process, and they reported first to Hamburg for documentation, indoctrination and assignment, arriving at 9pm. They apparently stayed in the Vier Jahreszeiten hotel on the Neuer Jungfernstieg lake, which between the end of the war and 1952 apparently served as headquarters of the British 7th Armoured Division. But in 1952 it apparently reopened as a hotel; perhaps it retained a residual link to the British Forces or perhaps she was mistaken, but Hamburg was first stop. She bought this commercial photo of Jungfernstieg with the hotel in the background (on the first page in Jean's first photo album) on 7th when they 'had lectures etc', and obviously had some spare time, because 'we left Hamburg at 9.30am on 8th. That first day was devoted to interviews, initial documentation, including the issue of personal identity passes, changing some money, learning about the role of BFES and how it

fitted in with the BAOR infrastructure, relations with German civilians etc, and assigning them to their schools. She was posted to Cologne Junior, Mixed and Infant school. Once the formalities had been dispensed with (for status she rated as a Captain in the army, an elevated rank for a 24-year-old!), she and other teachers were issued with rail warrants for travel by train, in her case to Cologne station. She left Hamburg at 9.30am and arrived in Cologne at 3.30pm where she was met by car and taken to her accommodation at Am Südpark 1. After offloading her hand-luggage, she and any other new teachers were taken across to No 1 Mess at Lindenallee 22, where she had her meals and social life with the other single teachers. The Mess was 'home' to members of all sorts of occupation, involved in the restoration of German infrastructure and British administration, and loosely reporting to the Embassy – civil servants, advisers helping to restore German unions, industries, the press, the postal system, German TV and radio, and a host of other facilities; as well as British staff running a British Cash Office, the postal system (BFPO), the NAAFI, British clubs and cinemas, radio and television (BFN), Die Brücke, WVS and the Church. The Mess had its share of these British unaccompanied civilians. Their married accompanied colleagues lived in houses provided for them, but made use of Mess facilities

as needed. Her Home

She and other teachers lived in single rooms in Am Südpark No 1 (front and back views):

But the Mess at Linden Allee No 22 (below front and back) was the hub where meals were eaten and social life was organised, and mail and newspapers were delivered.

Photo right - Jean dressed for a Carnival party in the Mess, standing on the garden steps



of Am Südpark, leading to the Mess, seen in the background. There was at least one other accommodation block, in Tiberius Strasse, where teachers lived and Jean mentioned dances taking place, but it was within easy reach of the Mess.



Jean also referred to 'the Annexe'; since she never gave an address, I think Tiberius Strasse may have been it.

Lindenallee 22 was the hub of Mess life. It was managed by a German Mess Manager with civilian staff – cooks, cleaners, gardeners, waiters and bar staff, mostly German but with some Displaced Persons (DPs) – responsible for the day-to-day organisation. But the residents managed their own conditions – entertainments, menus etc plus the finance, via a Mess Committee which held regular meetings and was responsible to the members. All members participated in

Getting to Cologne - 1954 ... Three BFES Experiences contd ...

the Committee, rotating at intervals; the teachers, including Jean took their turn.

Other facilities could be provided, usually requested via the German Mess Manager. Hair-dressing was one, and the teachers made frequent use of what appeared to be a resident hair-dresser; receiving English newspapers and mail addressed to a British Forces Post Office number rather than 22 Linden Allee; sending out laundry and dry-cleaning; and arranging and paying for transport. Cleaners were responsible for the condition of public rooms, but residents could have rooms done on repayment. All such facilities were paid for by the Mess and costs were recovered from the beneficiaries via monthly mess bills.

Breakfast and dinner (with frequent formal dinners and guest nights) were provided as routine by the Mess – lunch and tea by advance arrangement – although most residents would normally have lunch at work, and Jean and other teachers frequently had tea in each other's rooms.

The school itself

was situated in the Volkspark, a short distance away – a reasonable walk in fine weather, or a car drive if inclement.

Transport was provided at minimal (if any) cost using the ubiquitous Volkswagen 'Beetle' or the more spacious Volkswagen 'Kombi' I never visited the school, nor did Jean mention her school work in her diaries (except for the occasional comment on difficult days) other than class outings, school sports and inter-school competitions. These diaries, each measuring only some 3" by 2", and of the 'week-to-view' variety,



were completed daily in pencil throughout the four years; they were extensively used to document her social life, and were necessarily lacking in surnames and beset with abbreviations. Her work must have been covered in lesson-plans on a more rigorous basis.

Jean's experience had been limited to the British school system, whereby children started in September and classes moved up annually in September. But with schools in BAOR after the war, life was different. It would not have been acceptable for the children of Service families to wait for the next convenient term to begin, they would have been accepted as soon as possible after arrival; similarly they would have left when their parents were posted. Cologne was home to two RAF stations, at Butzweilerhof (Butz) and Wahnheide (Wahn), each also housing an Army regiment, altogether several thousand Servicemen and women, so trickle-posting was very much the order of the day and clas-

ses would have seen a lot of 'churn'. For BFES Cologne there was another very important source of peripatetic children needing an education – the nearby embassies in Bonn. I don't know whether the BFES at Butz and Wahn had the same problem, but I lived in the Mess at Wahn with the BFES teachers, and although service children arrived with their parents willy-nilly, I don't think so.

International Pupils

With Germany divided among the victorious Allies, and Berlin well within the zone allocated to the Soviets, a new capital was needed for the Federal Republic. In 1949 the Soviet zone became East Germany with its capital in East Berlin, and the three Western Allies' zones became West Germany, with its 'temporary' capital in Bonn (temporary because the German government felt that establishing it in a major city, such as Frankfurt, would give the impression that Germany would be permanently divided, and support for reunification would wither). The three Western military governors were replaced by civilian high commissioners in 1949, and they became ambassadors when occupation ended in 1955. The Americans and French moved to Bad Godesberg on the Rhine just south of

Bonn, and the British moved first to Wahnheide in the outskirts of Cologne (subsequently RAF Wahn, now Köln-Bonn airport), and then to Bonn itself (right), establishing the embassy on Friedrich Ebert Allee. It was built quickly, very basic, and too small, so was subject to



continual extension. Other nations also opened embassies in the Bonn area, which naturally attracted supporting organisations. Because Bonn was really only a large town and too small to be a capital, in order to accommodate all the military and civilian staffs involved many settled in Cologne with their families, and some wanted an English education for their children. According to Jean, many ended up in the BFES school in Cologne; perhaps arrangements were made with the British Government to allow attendance for a fee. It became a multinational school and for some children English was a second language, and teachers were instructed to make allowance for the many different religious and social customs, particularly when supervising children's mealtimes. Simple table manners, which would usually have been part of dinner-duties in a British junior school, such as how children interacted, used their knives and forks and how they left them when finished, were dealt with tactfully (or

Getting to Cologne - 1954 ... Three BFES Experiences

ignored) in the interests of world peace.

These are the school staff in 1956, three men including the Head – Mr Ray centre back – and ten women. I met them all,



Murphy (?).

This photo is of the teachers outside the main entrance to the British Primary School (not a Junior Mixed and Infant School as she was advised on



and knew most by first names, but because her diaries didn't encourage surnames, I cannot put names to these teachers, except for Jean Cotterell (circled left) and Margaret Eveleigh (also circled), Mr Ray, Bert Lishman, Kathleen Turner and Barbara Jordan. Other familiar names included Tom (posted to Brüggem in 1956), Doris, Louise, Joan, Jennifer, Muriel, Eileen and Peggy. But, because her friends didn't only consist of teachers, some of those named may not have been on the staff.

Mr Ray was her headmaster from 1954 to 1957. He was clearly a very popular and generous headmaster; teachers were frequently invited to meals at his house. All the staff liked him, and were sad when he left at the end of the summer term 1957. He was replaced on a temporary basis by Bert Lishman, his First Assistant teacher in the school – perhaps deputy head and certainly in the photo above, but later perhaps by a Mr

arrival in Hamburg in 1954), just prior to Mr Ray leaving. His farewell party was held on 21st July 1957 in the gardens of the Mess in Linden Allee.

The photo - above right shows the Head and some 12 to 14 teachers. New teachers arrived from time to time, and some were transferred – “Kathleen and Margaret were offered jobs in Antwerp, and Kathleen is definitely going”; “Tom going to Brüggem”.

Jean never recorded the number of children in the school – or even in her own class – but she noted on 1st December 1954 “Large number of children away.” On 12th November 1956 “13 children moved, now only 28 on roll” (I imagine that is in her class, not the school! Indeed, she also noted that on 5th July 1957 it was “Boiling again – 120 children absent”); On 9th September 1957 “46 new children”; On 28th April 1958 (start of summer term) “Lots of new children”. In UK this might hap-

pen in September, with most new children being the same age (fiveish) and put in one or two of the bottom classes but, because of ‘trickle posting’, these 46 would most likely have been of assorted ages and put into different classes. These were the days when the fathers (mostly) worked and the mothers didn't, so short-notice closures – as on 4th July 1957 when the school closed early because of the heat – might have been inconvenient but would not have been a problem to the mothers.

If we assume that class sizes were of the order of 25 to 30, with about 12 teachers that would have meant about 300 to 360 children altogether, but that is just a guess. Certainly their schooling was fragmented.

Clearly schools must have come under the control of an organisation – HQ BFES (?) – because they were subject to HMI visits each year. One regular visitor every term was a Mr Buckley, and on one occasion he talked to the

teachers about the Common Entrance exam; he was always called in in times of stress (such as when the teachers were threatened with an accommodation move), so he must have been part of the hierarchy. And teachers were posted in to Cologne and out elsewhere – to Antwerp for example, and Jean frequently referred to ‘new girls’ arriving; clearly teachers. But the school must have been in a permanent state of flux to cope with pupils arriving and leaving at odd times.

And what about the children?

Read the second part of Bernard's account of Jean's life in Koln in the Summer Edition of the journal published in August 2022.





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Phillip and Barbara
Arrandale.

We're on the Web!

What an issue! This edition of the journal is twenty-four pages packed with history, memories and reflection. It contains stories and records that will fascinate current and future readers over more than a few coffee breaks.

I first met our editor (Tom Nielsen-Marsh) when I joined SCE in September 1998 as an 'Inspector Adviser' and attended a Loccum Conference a few weeks later. Tom had organised that event and his photos and brief note from that same year (p15) give a clue to the thinking and organisation that must have been involved. I can barely fathom the logistics of 1987's larger event, (p13-15) – but I know that Tom deploys the same care and deep thought to putting the BFES Journal together. We are very lucky to have him as editor. Thank you, Tom and grateful thanks also to your eclectic range of contributors to this issue.

Here I risk causing offence by omission, because I only have space to mention an example. Teaching memoirs in this issue range

across the BFES world, so there is something for everyone, regardless of where you served. I am delighted to see George Andrew's writing included (from p6). George died in February, aged 90. He had taught in no less than seven MoD schools and been an association member since 1981, serving on the committee for some time.

George's and his fellow contributors' articles are what makes the BFES Journal important to future researchers, because they hold much detail and 'colour' about events which would otherwise be just dates and names. This edition holds no fewer than six rich personal memoirs.

Stadt and Lander archivists in Germany seek and maintain historical records and these include the presence and passing of the British from occupiers to allies. When we closed Ark School (JHQ) in 2013, we gave Monchengladbach's historians all the material they wanted, and access to the school while it was still open. Other schools and garrisons have done similar in the past and so, Ratingen's archivists have

been able to give us our history back on page 6. We have to thank our web-master, Malcolm Brooke, for this link & you can read more about Malcolm's mission to document every MoD School 'that ever there was' at the front of the journal.

On p5, Bettina Blum of Paderborn University updates us on the 'British Forces in Germany' project, which sets the post-war period in a broad historical context. Some of this project featured in museums in Gutersloh in 2019 and Paderborn in 2020.

For the view in the other direction, I recommend 'Friend to Foe', an exhibition on BAOR and BFG which forms part of the excellent (and free to visit) Chelsea Army Museum. It runs until 2024, but if you can't get there, visit their web-site and find the wonderful 40 minute virtual tour.

We are, of course, still making history and (side-panel, p14) Bill and Janet Bowen set out the stall for 9th September's AGM and lunch in Malvern.

Mark your diaries!

Winchester Curry Lunch: 2nd April 2022



Photo Kathy Malloy



Photo Jane Tull

A "superb event" was the term used by one member for the Curry Lunch held at the Gurkha Museum in Winchester on Saturday 2nd April, and everyone attending would have no difficulty agreeing with this statement. The sun shone after the previous day's snow, the location and museum staff made everyone feel special and welcomed and the curries prepared by Bindhya and her crew were described as "the best I've ever tasted" or, as Mike Chislett remarked "take-away curries will never taste the same again". The topping for the day had to be the opportunity to meet once again with old friends and chat and

laugh together and to enjoy making new friends from within the membership group. Jane Tull was the fantastic organiser for this event, and despite all the worries about covid19 and the weather, 53 members got together to celebrate the comradeship of the Association and to be thankful for some return to 'normality' for this year. Nothing, therefore, left to say except 'thank you' to all who attended and 'see you next time'.

Association Membership

Membership of the Association currently costs £15 per year. Membership is open to **anyone** who has served with BFES, SCEA, SCS(NWE), SCE or latterly is serving with the remaining MOD Schools. The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December and payment can be made by Standing Order or cheque. Further information and a membership application form is available from the

Membership Secretaries - 94 Headcorn Drive - Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7TX.