



2012 BERLIN BULLETIN



TRIBUTING THE BRITISH MILITARY TRAIN 1945-1991

PUBLISHED BY TRAIN OF EVENTS, WITH APOLOGIES TO THE EDUCATION TEAM, HQ BERLIN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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Issue 7

March 2012

Welcome to Issue 7 of the Bulletin – the last before bookings close on 31 March. This edition contains – finally – a pretty definitive programme and how to book for the associated events.

Most of the other news this month concerns the Sunday train – the Tribute to the 10,000 Military Railwaymen, but we would draw your attention to the illustrated talk about Berlin and the Reichsbahn on Saturday evening by Colonel Steve Davies, Hon Col of the Duke of Lancaster's, old Berlin hand, and Director of the National Railway Museum at York (see Pages 3 and 5). Evocatively, this will be held at Friedrichstraße, a scene of much misery for rail passengers in divided Berlin and now a symbol of a united free city (i.e an upmarket shopping mecca to rival the Kurfürstendamm).

SUNDAY 13 MAY - AND THEN THERE WERE NONE...

79 Railway Squadron RLC is formally disbanding at Marchwood on 26 April. We are honoured that the remaining members of the Squadron including their OC Major Chris Bowen, are holding together long enough to attend the Tribute to the 10,000 at Helmstedt on 13 May. Military railwaymen in the regular army are not the only species facing extinction – modern up to date and thoroughly rationalised DB no longer has Staff at its smaller stations. We are also delighted that the last Station Masters from Helmstedt (DB) and Marienborn (DR) are joining us.

SUNDAY 13 MAY - AND THEN THERE WAS ONE...(STEAM LOCO, THAT IS)

A combination of military railwaymen being fewer in number than Garrison troops, and a desire on the part of some of our steamier passengers to see the diesel (not just ours – the whole genre) banished to the outer darkness forever, the Sunday train will be slightly shorter than the Saturday – and hauled by 03 1010 on her own. (The Saturday train will still be hauled by 03 1010 and DDR diesel 119 – and the usual disclaimer about fire risk still applies to steam on both days).



We offer a very deep doff of the bowler hat to the Isle of Wight Steam Railway for agreeing to loan 03 1010 the very special nameplates seen in this picture. They will be conveyed on the steam loco on Sunday, subject to getting agreement to drill some fixing holes in it. This will not be the first time the "Royal Engineer" name has been seen between Berlin and Hannover – the RE Transportation troops used it on a requisitioned German P38 class before the Berlin Blockade stopped all the trains in 1948. Pic courtesy IOWSR

MOMENTS IN TIME – THE LONG HAND OF HISTORY REACHES DOWN TO US...

The British Military Train was recently described to us by a former RMP Interpreter as one of the greatest legend and myth generators of all railway history. Even the 2012 recreation is joining its illustrious forebear in coming up with surprises... Everyone remembers the all-important BTD B,

Form BTDC

UNITED KINGDOM
ROYAUME UNI
СОЮЗНОЕ КОРОЛЕВСТВО
MOVEMENT ORDERS
LAISSEZ-PASSER
ИЛЪ ТЕВКА

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Имя: [blank] Звание: [blank] Количество: [blank] Идентификационный номер: [blank]

DESTROYED BY: [blank] DATE: [blank] REVISION: [blank] NUMBER: [blank]

by [blank] on [blank] at [blank] for [blank]

Commandant British Sector Berlin
Commandant du Secteur Britannique de Berlin
Командующий Британским Сектором в Берлине

Signature: [blank]
Name: [blank]
THE COMMANDANT, BRITISH SECTOR BERLIN

BRITISH SECTOR BERLIN

30 Jan 90

ББЕЗА

without which neither you nor the train would be going anywhere. If anyone wanted proof that this wonderful train is not dead but has just been sleeping, the last stash of 1000 ORIGINAL BTD Bs have been located in a cupboard in Braunschweig. All unused, and all completely authentic, if a bit dusty.

We are not aware of any other commemorative special train, ever, that has been able to draw on its own paperwork from two decades ago. Discretion precludes us from naming, on this page or anywhere else, the Illustrious Gentleman and BMT stalwart who has made this happen for us – and who has volunteered to laboriously type them all out. But for amateur detectives among the BMT Old Hands, here is a clue...

Below, it is 7 Feb 1991, Braunschweig RTO Francis Carlile gives the DB guard the tip for the very last British Military Train. Heavily laden with RCT (not yet RLC) and British Military Government VIPs, en route to Berlin the train would solemnly observe the Marienborn stop, even though the Soviet Checkpoint Officers had long since departed for home. Francis has retired in Braunschweig and if you are on the platform there, you will see him again giving the Berliner guard the tip. A 21 year gap between trains - it has been a long wait! And then, like buses, two come at once...



THE 2012 BERLINER WEEKEND PROGRAMME IN FULL

The Overture; Pre-event silliness...not part of the Official Programme, but we hope some of you will come anyway.

Thursday 10 May; 20.00 Unofficial gathering for beer at the Royal British Legion Club, Karolinger Platz 2, 14052 Berlin. A really bad start to the weekend for anyone in town ahead of the official programme.

Admission: Free to all Berliner ticket holders and RBL members. Drinks at standard club prices. How to get there: RBL Club is behind the former Edinburgh House on Heerstrasse. Nearest U-Bahn Theodor – Huess- Platz Line U2, direction Ruhleben, from Alexanderplatz,, Potsdamer Platz and Zoologischer Garten. First time Berliners and those among us whose memory is not what it was can download and print off the U and S Bahn map here <http://www.bvg.de/index.php/en/17099/name/Network+Map.html>

Friday 11 May ;At a time to be confirmed on Friday morning the train will be presented to the press at Schoeneweide Depot. Any Berliner ticket-holders who happen to be in town are welcome to come and have a look at the “media” in action, meet the train team (and see them sweating to get all the food loaded and tables laid up). **NEW!** Colonel Steve Davies, now Director of the National Railway Museum, will make a small and very personal presentation to Berlin Eisenbahnfreunde, the depot owners. We are sworn to secrecy about what he will be doing and saying but if you have any steam in your blood it will be worth seeing - trust us on this!

Admission: Free for all Berliner ticket holders. How to get there: By S Bahn to Betriebsbahnhof Schoeneweide on Lines S8 and S45 (take the Stadtbahn to Ostkreuz (which is a building site) and change to the upper level platforms, take the first train in direction Schoenefeld Flughafen or Zeuthen. On alighting at Betriebsbahnhof Schoeneweide take the footbridge at the north end of the platform (or back end of the train) and cross all the abandoned tracks towards the steam shed (which is pure unchanged Reichsbahn architectural style, and looks like the last Shed Master was one of the Addams Family). Ladies are asked to wear sensible shoes, and all are asked not to fall into the inspection pits. This is an operating depot and attendance is at your own risk.

This is also a chance to get up close and personal with 03 1010 and the 119 and meet the crews.



Getting up close and personal with German steam engines can be a bit awe-inspiring. 03 1010's regular drivers – Harry Heydenbluth and Helmut König– are not especially short men – but the Roaring Monster and her Class 119 diesel sister (well, distant relative anyway) are the thick end of 2 feet taller than their UK equivalents. The brass decoration on the chimney needs polishing every day – a long climb for the hapless engine cleaner. Pic courtesy Foerderverein 03101.

WITH THE SILLINESS OVER, WE COME FINALLY TO THE SERIOUS BUSINESS...

THE OFFICIAL 2012 BERLINER WEEKEND

Friday 11 May The Official Opening Event. 15.00 – 16.45 Coffee and Cake at the Allied Museum, .

Welcome speeches by Major-General Sir Robert Corbett xxx and the Director of the Allied Museum. Wreath-laying by Lt General Lillywhite, President, Battlefield Advanced Trauma Life Support group. In addition to the truly fascinating permanent exhibition, during May the Museum is also holding a special exhibition called “Like a Tinderbox! The Construction of the Berlin Wall”.

Admission: Free to all Berliner ticket holders. How to get there: By U-Bahn Line U1 to Oskar Helen Heim (take a train showing direction Krumme Lanke, then walk north four blocks along Clayallee or take a 115 or 183 bus, to the stop Allierten- Museum (two stops). Please note that due to traffic conditions on Friday afternoons, we are not providing buses to or from this event and the city centre.

AIRLIFT SPIRIT BRITISH EVENING AT LUFTWAFFE MUSEUM (ex-RAF GATOW)

RAF Gatow holds a very special place in the British Berlin Tradition, and not just for flying – it and the associated school and golf club were at the heart of Berlin social affairs. It was also unusual for the RAF to go about its business protected from the “enemy” only by a fairly flimsy fence. It had been important to the Luftwaffe before the war as a flying school, and after the last bizarre act of burying the rubble of Spandau Prison under it, the Brits handed it back to the original owners, who made it into their Museum. (Given that amount of history, how could they do anything else?)

The evening starts at Clayallee after the Coffee & Cake Reception with a procession of vintage Berlin buses via Heerstrasse and (TBC) the Olympic Stadium to RAF Gatow. On arrival there will be a formal welcome by Major-General Burden and Col Leonhardt, the Luftwaffe Commander at Gatow.

- ◆ At 18.30 the RAAF Dakota will be rolled out for its public debut after restoration.
- ◆ BBQ supper by Chefs from the former Allied Golf Club adjacent (included) and a cash bar (not).
- ◆ Walking tours of the museum hangers and control tower, and the Berlin Patrol vintage vehicles.
- ◆ Tours of the outdoor exhibits (which extend the length of the runway) by vintage military vehicle.
- ◆ Musical entertainment by the Black Kilts Pipe Band, Embassy Singers and Kitten von Mew.
- ◆ Carriages (in the form of big cream vintage Berlin buses) at 22.00. Buses to Spandau S- and U-Bahn stations, K'damm, Charlottenburg and Alexanderplatz.

Admission: FULL TOUR and UPGRADED Berliner ticket holders only.



Work is proceeding apace on restoring the RAAF Dakota for her roll out on May 11 at Airlift Spirit. The Luftwaffe engineers are not stinting on materials - there goes the 2012 masking tape budget.

Saturday 12th May – The Garrison Train

The 2012 Berliner departs at about 08.40. This train commemorates and celebrates the Berlin Brigade and Garrison. Arrives back in Berlin 20.00. (This train is now full).

09.00 Vintage Tour to Zossen and Wundsdorf departs Berlin, with pick ups at Charlottenburg, Ku'damm, and Alexanderplatz.

NEW! 21.00 Illustrated talk by Col Steve Davis, Hon Col of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and Director of the National Railway Museum at York about his days as a Berlin staff officer – and avid student of what the Reichsbahn was up to – in the last years of the Cold War. *Admission; Free to all Berliner ticket holders. How to get there: S-Bahn, DB Regional Express over the Stadbahn, north-south S Bahn lines S1, S2, S25, or U-Bahn line U6.*

Sunday 13 May – The Tribute to the 10,000 Railwaymen.

The 2012 Berliner departs at about 08.40. This train commemorates the 10,000 RE(Transportation) and RCT railway trade who supported the invasion, rebuilt the broken railways of Europe, and ran the BMT without starting World War Three. (Some seats are available in First and Second Class on this train, tickets £90 and £125 respectively). This train is hauled by steam only.

09.00 Tour to Zossen and Wundsdorf departs Berlin, with pick ups at Charlottenburg, Ku'damm, and Alexanderplatz.



Zossen – the Prussian Military Railway, now with pump trolley operation (and in this picture, an ex-OC of 79 Railway working out how to drive it), and (above right) the entrance to one of the Wehrmacht and later Soviet Forces Germany bunkers at Wundsdorf. Note the sheer scale of this surface building from the very small human figure in the doorway. During the hot and cold wars just about every military name in the history books – Communist and Nazi alike -walked through that door.

The Zossen Tour includes; vintage bus travel, with a very cheesy photostop at Checkpoint Charlie or the Brandenburg Gate, the bunker tour and NVA vehicle rally, lunch at a country station and a do-it-yourself ride by pump trolley on the old military railway.

Monday 14 May Post event silliness...not part of the official programme...10.00 Tour of (aka a poke around) the old Wavell Barracks hosted by RBL Deputy Chairman and ex-Coldstream Guards Cold War Warrior Frank Knox, to include a “cultural” visit to the local bar by the Barracks, now in Scottish ownership. *Admission: Free to all Berliner ticket holders, but please be sure to buy Frank a beer in the pub afterwards. Oh Dear, it would seem we are going out as we came in.....*

OPTIONAL EXCURSION BOOKING, DINING, AND OTHER BUMPH!

Railways and armies are famous for generating paper (a golden rule of train operating is that when the weight of the paperwork equals or exceeds the weight of the train, the train may depart), so inevitably when the two meet, There Shall Be Bumph. In this case it consists of the form supplied with this edition of the Berliner Bulletin.

PART ONE BUMPH (for those who have already made a booking for the train, or the full tour)

1.1 Data Protection, the Commemorative Brochure and BTB B Forms

We wish to include a Passenger List in the brochure, as much a permanent historic record of who was on board as anything else. Inclusion is optional of course, but if you are prepared to be included could you please complete Part A of the attached form. This requires your consent under DPA, and we will not be able to include you without it. If you wish to have an original BTB B (see news story on a previous page) in your name please also let us have your old service ID Document number or Passport Number if you prefer.

1.2 DINING ON THE TRAIN

We published the menu in the last issue, it is based on that served on the 40th Anniversary BMT and comprises Full English Breakfast, and Veal Escalope for dinner. The price is £40 per head. Meals will be served in individual sittings and we will allocate each sitting on a first come first allocated basis. If you are dining and have expressed a dietary preference this will automatically be carried over into the optional excursions.

If you prefer not to dine on board, there will be an at-seat service of beer and other essentials, hopefully including bacon butties (if we can persuade Chef to do it). Hannover Station is full of fast food restaurants but also boasts – within the main building – the gorgeous Sol y Mar, which thanks to the recession offers a quick and inexpensive lunch in amazing surroundings -think slightly funky and much cheaper 21st Century version of Le Train Blue in the Gare de Lyon in Paris.*(Not sure even I can get my head round that analogy – Ed)*

1.3 OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

If you have already booked for the train and wish to attend the Airlift Spirit evening at Gatow and the Zossen Tour, the upgrade fee for all events is £125 per person. People who are not booked on the train can attend all other events, free and paid for, but only as a guest of a booked passenger.

1.4 CHANGES TO RESERVATION DATES

If you are booked on the 12th but prefer to travel on the Tribute to the 10,000 (relevant if you are ex-RE Transportation or RCT, or are among those who just like don't like diesels helping the steam)we will do our best to accommodate you. Ditto if you wish to move the other way (although there is a waiting list).

PART TWO BUMPH (for those who have not yet booked)

We will be closing bookings for the train from 31 March, and for dining and excursion upgrades from 16 April. Any remaining seats unsold on 31 March will be handed to the locomotive owners for sale to their supporters.

The Berlin Infantry Brigade Flash is reproduced courtesy of Major General Nick Caplin CB, GOC, BFG. All information herein is published in good faith and is accurate at time of going to press, even if it collapses into twaddle later. If you wish to unsubscribe to the Bulletin email us with the word DELETE in the heading to sales@trainofevents.co.uk