



Living in Germany and Elmpt Station

Brief History of the Station

RAF Brüggen

The RAF Station was constructed on drained marshland within a heavily forested area during the period February 1952 to July 1953. This remarkably short construction phase was a direct result of the need to house the rapidly expanding NATO forces in the early fifties. The first aircraft to land at Brüggen was a VIP Devon in June 1953 which delivered Air Marshal Sir Robert Foster, the then C-in-C Second Tactical Air Force and took off again from an incomplete runway 27. It is understood, however, that the first actual landing may have been made by a Vampire in May 1953, which was the first of many to mistake Brüggen for RAF Wildenrath. Construction was the responsibility of the Airfield Construction Branch (ACB) who supervised an army of German contractors.

During the period 1953 to 1957, the Station operated as a fighter squadron station, from 1957 to 1998 in the strike/attack role and from 1998 in the attack role. In its recent history; all four Tornado GR4 Squadrons took part in the Gulf War during 1991 and subsequently in a number of operations in the Middle East and the Balkans.

The demise of RAF Brüggen, as the last Main Operating Base in Mainland Europe, was made public in 1998 and the withdrawal process began in April 1999 with the disbandment of 17 (Fighter) Squadron. The official closure ceremony of the Station was held on 15-17 June 2001, a memorable occasion for Brüggen personnel, the local community and the Royal Air Force as a whole. The last Tornado was flown out of RAF Brüggen on the morning of the 4th September 2001 by the Station Commander, Group Captain TM Anderson DSO. Responsibility for the Station was handed over to Lieutenant Colonel JE Richardson, Commanding Officer 7th Signal Regiment by Wing Commander JR Andrews, the last Station Commander on 4th February 2002. The camp was officially taken over by the Army on 28th February 2002 and transferred between German Ministries on 1st April 2002.

Elmpt Station

RAF Brüggen was named originally after the nearest railhead, in the North Rhine Westphalia village of Brüggen; however, it is actually situated just outside the village of Elmpt. It was for this reason that the Army took the decision in late 2001 to change the name to Elmpt Station. The name Javelin Barracks was adopted due to the use of the 'Javelin' flash by members of the 1st Signal Brigade. The Station is made up of Javelin Barracks, Elmpt and the quartering area of Wildenrath. It is part of Rhine and European Support Group (RESG) and has a small Station Headquarters commanded by either the Commanding Officer of 7 Signal Regiment or 16 Signal Regiment who is double hatted as Station Commander dependant upon operational commitments. The following units and organisations are located in Javelin Barracks:

7th Signal Regiment

In 1914 "A" Corps Signal Company, Royal Engineers was formed for the Headquarters 1 Corps with which it served on the Western Front throughout the First World War. After the war it was reduced to a cadre from which the newly formed Signals Corps was reconstituted in 1923. In 1924 it became a Lieutenant Colonel's command.

In 1939 the unit was re-designated 1st Corps Signals and again went with the 1st Corps to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. After the Dunkirk evacuation it was stationed in Yorkshire. In April 1942 a large part of the Unit was used for the re-forming of No 1, Line of Communications Signals.

1st Corps Signals was reconstituted in 1943. It took part in the Normandy Landings of 1944 and the subsequent operations in Northwest Europe. At the end of the war it was stationed in Germany, becoming 1 Corps District Signal Regiment, rising in strength at one stage to 9 squadrons including one Auxiliary Territorial Force and two captured signal companies of the Wehrmacht. It was disbanded in 1947.

In 1950 the unit was raised again as 1 Corps Signal Regiment and in 1951 joined Headquarters 1 Corps in Germany. On its arrival in Herford the Regiment initially occupied Harewood Barracks but in 1952 moved to the newly built Maresfield Barracks. In August 1956 the Regiment was re-designated 2 Corps Signal Regiment and took part in the Suez Operation. It returned to Herford in December of the same year.

The Regiment had its last change of title in 1959 when it became 7th Signal Regiment. In September 1972 the Regiment received the singular honour of the award of the Freedom of the City of Herford in recognition of the close links between the Regiment and Stadt Herford.

In September 1990 a detachment of vehicles and men was called for action with the 7th (British) Armoured Brigade (The Desert Rats) as part of the British Contingent of a multinational force in Saudi Arabia, formed as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. A further force of over 400 soldiers was then sent to reinforce 1st (British) Armoured Division when the United Kingdom land contingent increased to an Armoured Division in December 1990. Shortly after Christmas further small detachments totalling about 60 men were sent to the Gulf to act as Battle Casualty Replacements (BCR) should conflict occur. The Regiment's communication equipment and troops were amongst the leading elements of the advance by the 1st (British) Armoured Division into Iraq.

When Headquarters 1st British Corps was re-designated Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), the Regiment's squadrons restructured and renamed to form Headquarters, 229, 231 and 232 squadrons, with 230 Squadron being placed tactically under command and joining the Regiment when it moved in 1994 from Herford to Krefeld.

In December 1995 the Regiment deployed elements firstly to support the United Nations on Operation GRAPPLE in Bosnia and then following the Dayton Agreement the Regiment deployed completely in support of Headquarters ARRC in Sarajevo as part of the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR). The Regiment remained in Bosnia until December 1996 before returning to Krefeld. In 1997 the Regiment received the honour of the Freedom of Krefeld.

In February 1999 the Regiment dispatched 232 Signal Squadron to the Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in support of the NATO effort to resolve the humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Kosovo. By June the Regiment was fully deployed as part of the NATO force in FYROM. The Regiment moved with

Headquarters ARRC into Kosovo in late June and remained deployed until November 1999.

After returning to Kosovo in 2004, the Regiment was warned to deploy to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK in 2006. It deployed in 2 tranches. 231 Signal Squadron deployed in March 2006 as part of the 16 Signal Regiment Group, for a 6 month tour. The majority of the Regiment, with the Regimental Headquarters and 230 Signal Squadron under command, then deployed in September 2006, also for 6 months. Soldiers from the Regiment served all over the country, including in Kabul, Helmand, Kandahar and Herat provinces, and also into Pakistan. The Regiment has been warned off to deploy there again in February 2009.

7 Signal Regiment moved to Elmpt in January 2002, after spending 7 years in Krefeld. The Regiment is assigned to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, and its operational role is to support the deployed ARRC Headquarters. The Regiment consists of four squadrons (HQ Sqn, 229 Sig Sqn, 231 Sig Sqn and 232 Sig Sqn), and is located in the Northwest of Javelin Barracks.

16th Signal Regiment

It is possible to trace direct the origins of 16 Signal Regiment to the formation of No 1 (Line of Communication) Regiment, which was later part of the British Expeditionary Force sent to France in 1940.

In September 1939, a GHQ Signal Regiment was mobilised and sent to France the following year as part of the ill-fated BEF, being eventually evacuated with the remains of that force from Dunkirk. No 1 Regiment was also deployed and evacuated (the GHQ Signal Regiment looked forward to the Divisions, with No 1 Regiment taking on the rearward links to the United Kingdom). Even in this short time it became clear that the demands created by deployment out of the Home Base and onto the Continent were too great and No 2 (Line of Communications) Regiment was raised from elements of No 1 Regiment.

After the evacuation from Dunkirk, the higher formation Signal Regiments underwent a necessary reorganisation: Nos 1 and 2 Regiment were disbanded and the GHQ Signal Regiment was renamed No 1 HQ Signals Regiment. With the preparations for the invasion of France, Nos 1 and 2 Regiments were re-raised in 1942, and No1 HQ Signals was renamed 21st Army Group Signal Regiment in 1943. During the planning for Operation OVERLORD, it was assumed that each Line of Communication Regiment would be responsible for some 250 miles of the line of communications, extending from Army Group HQ to the Channel Ports.

The Line of Communications Regiments took control of communications for the Normandy Beachheads and the invasion "Base Area" on D+5, and from there expanded operations to follow the progress of the Army Group HQ. By VE Day, HQ 21st Army Group had reached Bad Oeynhausen and Herford and with ensuing peace there it stayed. The Line of Communications Regiments (by now totalling 5 separate units) stretched back through Germany, Holland, Belgium and France and continued to carry the traffic of the military government of the British Zone of Occupied Germany.

In the immediate post-War period there was a great deal of further reorganisation and rationalisation of the chain of command and of the supporting communications units. No 2 Regiment was again disbanded, and 21st Army Group Signals became HQ BAOR Signals. On 10 September 1945, HQ BAOR Signals changed its name to No 1 HQ Signals, and in taking on a number of infrastructure as well as HQ roles it began to look rather more like the 16 Signal Regiment of the following decades: in

total the Regiment consisted of some 2000 soldiers spread through 73 Troops and Sections, with a Line and Cable Squadron, a Signal Office and Exchange Squadron, a Radio and Telegraph and SDS Squadron, and a fourth, though temporary, Squadron for one of the Control Commission HQ up until late 1946. Then, as over the next 50 years, the Regiment (titled as No 1 Signal Regiment) was widely dispersed with detachments as far away as the Hook of Holland, Berlin and Copenhagen.

On 15 October 1946, No 2 (Line of Communications) Regiment was brought back into being for the third time, being created by amalgamating elements of No 1 Regiment and a sister Regiment. No 2 Regiment was tasked with the provision of communications throughout the greater part of the British Zone of Occupied Germany, in Holland, and for HQ BAOR. The three Squadron organisation of No 1 HQ Signal Regiment was maintained and in March 1947 it was recorded that the strength of the Regiment was 60 Officers and 1154 Other Ranks.

The Regiment was retitled, to HQ BAOR Signal Regiment, on 15 June 1948. A major change was that several of the larger and more distant elements were split off to become independent Squadrons in their own right. By 1951, the need to rationalise further and divide responsibilities between the HQ BAOR Signal Regiment, which remained centered on Herford, and a separate Line of Communications unit led to the reforming of No 2 Regiment, now based in Hamburg. In August 1952, the bulk of No 2 Regiment relocated to the Ruhr in a four Squadron ORBAT, and although there were further reorganisations involving No 2 Regiment the general pattern was of concentration in Rheindahlen and in Düsseldorf. After so many changes in the hectic years of the late 40s and early 50s, relative peace and stability ensued until January 1958 when the RHQ of No 2 Regiment, together with 1 and 2 Squadrons, moved into Bradbury Barracks in Krefeld (though 1 Squadron was to move to Rheindahlen in 1961). The Regiment also had a third Squadron based in Emblem, supporting HQ British Forces in Belgium, and a fourth Squadron in Bielefeld as the HQ 1 (BR) Corps Commcen Squadron.

On 1 September 1959, all Signal units relinquished their old and diverse titles and took the simple numeric identities which persist to the present day: No 2 (Line Communication) Regiment became 16 Signal Regiment, still based in Krefeld.

In 1994/5 as part of the Options for Change process, the Regiment was reorganised and moved to Krefeld Lines, Rheindahlen. In 1996 the Regiment deployed on Op Grapple to Bosnia, returning to the Balkans again in 1999 on Op Agricola in Macedonia and Kosovo. Following the move to Javelin Barracks, Elmpt (formerly RAF Brüggem) in March 2002, 16 Sig Regt played a significant part in Op Telic, deploying in Dec 2003 and firmly establishing the MND(SE) Div HQ at Basrah Air Station.

Throughout its history, the Regiment has always been employed in support of operations up to Army group level. This continues as the Regiment supports the Headquarters of the Allied Commander Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) - the sole remaining Corps level operational capability which the British Army supports.

The Regiment is now four squadrons strong following the reformation of 252 Sqn and has a fully deployable RHQ. It comprises Support Sqn, 230 Sqn, 252 Sqn and 255 Sqn.

2006 saw the Regiment execute an extremely successful deployment to Afghanistan where they provided services all over theatre. The majority of deployments were to HQ ISAF and COMDBRITFOR in Kabul, and Joint Netcen in Kandahar. There were also several detachments operating from Helmand Province during a time of intense enemy activity.

On completion of operational commitments, the Regiment was selected to lead the Brigade into its year long tour of Public Duties. Based in London, Public Duties Squadron provided the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, St. James' Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London. This was one of the few times that a Royal Signals unit had been chosen for such an honour, and the first whilst wearing ceremonial order.

2008 will see elements of the Regiment once again deploying to Afghanistan. This time to provide support to both Task Force Helmand, headed up by 16 Air Assault Brigade, and the ISAF mission.

628 Signal Troop

280 (UK) Signal Squadron was formed on the 1st January 1994 at St Tönis. This followed the amalgamation, on 1st June 1993, of Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) and Central Army Group (CENTAG) into Land Forces Central Europe (LANDCENT). Until then NORTHAG had been supported by 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (part of NORTHAG) but under Options for Change the Regiment was drawn down to Squadron level.

The Squadron became a vital part of the LANDCENT Signal Group (LSG) whose Headquarters was based in Heidelberg. LANDCENT Signal Group was made up of: 280 (UK) Signal Squadron; 1 (NL) Signal Squadron; 990 (GE) Signal Regiment; and 414 (US) Signal Company. The LANDCENT Signal Group provided communications for HQ LANDCENT.

Since April 2000 the Squadron has been part of the Deployable CIS Module Battalion (DCM Bn) based in Brunssum at HQ AFNORTH. It is an essential

part of the Northern Region Signal Group (NRSG). The Squadron is in the process of changing from tactical to commercial communications equipment.

280 (UK) Signal Squadron is the only British Army Major or Minor unit in Germany permanently assigned to, and under, Operational Command of NATO in peace and war.

In 1976 28 (BR) Signal Regiment was granted the Freedom of St Tönis by Burgermeister Beckers. The same honour was bestowed on 280 (UK) Signal Squadron in 1997 and it is the only Allied unit to have received a ribbon of Honour (Fahnenband) presented personally by the President of North Rhine Westphalia for its contribution to Anglo/German relations in the community.

280 (UK) Signal Squadron relocated to Javelin Barracks, Elmpt in March 2002. This marked the end of nearly half a century of Royal Corps of Signals presence in St Tönis.

280(UK) Signal Squadron became an independent troop on 1 December 2004.

On this date, it became 628 Signal Troop. In its new format, 628 Signal Troop will continue to support NATO, but as one of four Deployable CIS Modules (DCMs) that make up the newly formed 1st NATO Signal Battalion.

12 Flight Army Air Corps

12 Flight Army Air Corps is a flight of four Gazelle helicopters whose role is to provide light aviation support, primarily in the liaison role, to UK interests across Northern Continental Europe. CinC LAND has full command with the control of routine tasking delegated to GOC UKSC(G). Other users include COMARRC, DSACEUR, DCOM JFC, visiting VIPs and other UK headquarters based in Germany and the low countries. The flight is commanded by a Major who has a Captain as second-in-

command with five further military personnel ranging from Warrant Officer to Lance Corporal. The military staff includes four pilots, an AQMS, an MTWO as well as stores and groundcrew personnel. Aircraft maintenance is provided by VT Aerospace who provide nine technicians. A further four civilians are employed in flight operations and administrative posts. With these twenty personnel the flight provides two Gazelle helicopter tasking lines across North Western Europe.

The Gazelle helicopter was originally brought into service with the British Army in the 1970s as a light battlefield reconnaissance helicopter and has seen action in Northern Ireland, the Falklands War, the Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo and Sierra Leone. The Gazelle is fast and highly manoeuvrable with a crew of one or two depending on the role and seating for up to five occupants. The aircraft has a top speed of 194 mph and a range of over 300 miles. It has now been withdrawn from its battlefield role and will remain in the liaison role until it is withdrawn from service in 2012.

The origins of 12 Flt AAC date back to June 1951 when it was the continuation training flight of 657 Air Op Squadron. It gained its independence in 1954 and moved to RAF Wildenrath in the liaison role. As a result of Options for Change 12 Flt AAC moved to RAF Brüggen in June 1992.

Rhine Troop, 921 Squadron, 11 EOD Regiment RLC

Rhine Troop forms part of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Regiment RLC, with the Regimental Headquarters at Didcot in the UK and Squadron Headquarters located throughout the UK and Germany. Rhine Troop was formed as the West of Rhine Section in July 1998 and after time at JHQ and Ayrshire Barracks the Troop moved to RAF Brüggen in March 2000.

The mission statement for 11 EOD Regiment RLC is "to maintain and deliver ammunition technical support, explosives safety and Explosive Ordnance Disposal capability, including support to National Contingency Operations in peace, other operations and war." On a day to day basis, Rhine Troop conducts a range of tasks such as annual inspections within the Troop Area of Responsibility (AOR), support to units in overseas operations and exercises (OTX) and Conventional Munitions Disposal (CMD). The Troop is responsible for Technical Ammunition advice and safety for 13 units located as far apart as Münster and Mons. The Troop also provides Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) support to British Forces Germany (BFG) and to the German Civil Police (GCP) as required, with an Immediate Duty Team at 10 minutes Notice To Move at all times.

Rhine Area Workshops

Rhine Area Workshop REME provides inspection, repair, recovery and servicing support for equipment held by 1 Sig Bde and Rhine and European Support Group. It has a strength of approximately 80 personnel, which includes 4 military, 1 UKBC and 75 locally employed civilians.

The workshop has a vehicle repair facility, metalsmiths' bay, carpenters' shop, paint spray booth, signwriters' shop, textile shop, generator repair bay and load testing area.

It runs 2 BFG vehicle testing stations, which are located in RMC and Javelin Barracks. Additionally, it runs the station battery charging shop.

Moving to Germany

Many needless problems occur with families because they arrive unannounced, or the move has not been properly documented. In the worst case a family may have to return to UK. Heads of Families should discuss their move and proposed travel

arrangement with the RAO/UAO/Personal Admin Offices well before the departure. It is important that an F Mov 564, (Application for Families Passage), is submitted to JSTC by units, even if the family are intending to travel by private means. All family members must be in possession of valid passports before travelling to Germany, these can be obtained at public expense via JSTC. Even if married accommodation has been allocated families should not travel to Germany until shortly before a handover date and time arranged with the Housing Office and temporary accommodation has been arranged.

Cassels House

Cassels House is a Service Hostel located in Rheindahlen Military Complex, approximately 10 miles from Javelin Barracks and 6 Miles from Wildenrath. Accommodation includes family, single and double rooms with full board service. Application forms can be obtained from: Cassels House, BFPO 40 or phone Civ 02161 472 4234.

Insurance

If you are not already covered you are strongly advised to take out insurance for your stay in Germany, public liability cover is particularly important.

Personal Property. Personal property is the responsibility of the owner and only in certain circumstances can limited compensation for loss or damage to such property be paid from public funds.

Public Liability. All ranks are advised to take out public liability cover against injury to third parties by members of their household or pets.

Life Assurance. All personnel are advised to take advice from a reputable broker before committing themselves to any life assurance policy and to be particularly wary of door-to-door insurance salesmen. The RAO holds a list of reputable brokers.

The Place Where You Live

Elmpt lies in flat country between the Rivers Rhine and Maas on the B230, the main road from Roermond to Mönchengladbach. The main occupation is farming, and the country, which is well wooded, may remind you of parts of East Anglia. Mönchengladbach, 20 miles to the east, is a large modern city with excellent road and rail communications to all parts of Germany and the Low Countries. It has a considerable shopping centre, a football team of Premier Division standard, excellent cinemas and restaurants and a wide selection of operas and concerts is often available. Roermond, 8 miles west across the Dutch border, resembles an English market town. It stands where the Rivers Maas and Roer join and is a Cathedral city established in the 13th Century. Though smaller than Mönchengladbach it still provides good shopping facilities, including weekly markets.

English is widely spoken by both the German and Dutch population. The small town of Brügger is 3 miles away, but our nearest village is Elmpt. Elmpt has become very largely a dormitory area today, but it has a long history of its own, having at different times been ruled as a part of the Spanish Netherlands and as a French possession. Fifteen miles away at Rheindahlen lies the international military community at JHQ - Joint Headquarters. JHQ is an established multi-national centre with its own theatre, cinema, shops, clubs and swimming pool and its facilities are widely used by Elmpt families.

Brüggen

Brüggen village has a wide variety of shops, which cater for the daily needs of the local population and the many visitors to this picturesque village. Brüggen boasts a tempting choice of restaurants, offering traditional German cooking, Italian, Balkan and much more; there is an indoor swimming pool as well. A popular Sunday past time is to enjoy an afternoon stroll around the village enjoying the shops and stalls that open for special Sunday trading. The centre of the village is the site of regular flea markets and traditional fairs and celebrations.

Mönchengladbach

About 20 miles away is Mönchengladbach which has a successful Bundesliga football team and a very good selection of shops, selling a wide range of goods and services. Large supermarkets offer food, clothing and household equipment. There is a Saturday morning market and the shops close between 1600-1800 hours at the discretion of the shopkeeper. The town is the nearest railhead to Elmpt Station for travellers from the Continental Channel ports. It has been twinned with Bradford in Yorkshire and there is a close contact between the 2 cities. The Verkehrsverein (tourist information office - telephone number is 02161 22001) is in the Hauptbahnhof (main railway station - railway information telephone number is 02161 19419). Late night shopping is on Thursday evenings.

Roermond

Roermond in the Netherlands has fast trains to Amsterdam and The Hague. There are numerous shops and a Saturday morning street market. The shops are closed on Monday mornings but remain open on Saturdays until 1700 hours. It was here that the Dutch National Anthem was first heard in 1572. There are a number of excellent restaurants, many of which specialize in Indonesian cuisine. The Tourist Information Office (VVV) is situated off the Market Square at the Church end of the square. The Tourist Information telephone number is 0031 475 335847.

On driving directly in to Roermond from Camp, you will normally stop at the traffic lights at 'BFG Corner', the fruit and vegetable shop on the opposite side of the road is worthwhile as it is a little corner shop with everything from milk, bread, cheese, frozen foods as well as the fruit and vegetables.

Asenray (on the way to Roermond)

If you drive through the village by taking the third left turn at Spikkerweg you will find the Vleesmarkt on the right-hand side, good value chicken and pork. If you continue through the village on the winding road until you have the main road in sight again; you will come upon an excellent greengrocers at the farm on the right. The fruit and vegetables sold here are wonderful and the family farm is a delight to visit.

Local Towns and Villages

Brief History of Germany and Local Places of Interest - Germany

In 1945 the country was divided; in the west was the Federal Republic of Germany, a federal state comprising 11 'Lander', whereas the east saw the establishment of the German Democratic Republic.

Now the two German states are re-united; the 5 East German 'Lander' have joined the Federal Republic which now, as a result, consists of 16 'Bundeslander' in all.

Germany's federative history enables us today to offer you a wide variety of cultural

attractions, for all these counts, dukes, prince bishops and kings' scattered royal palaces and capital cities of various sizes throughout the entire land.

You can re-live the country's history at first hand. You will find important buildings: Roman ruins, churches, monasteries and cathedrals from the era of Imperial greatness;

Castles from the days of chivalry and the Hohenstaufen dynasty; and royal palaces with magnificent grounds from Baroque times. And what you cannot see from outside you will find within the castles and stately homes.

Mönchengladbach

Mönchengladbach and Rheydt are over a thousand years old. They form a large centre between the rivers Maas and Rhine. Their wealth and growth was, and still is, due to the textile trade, which is firmly established in the area - and which in the Middle Ages formed part of the then 'Low Countries' cloth trade.

The two towns existed separately until recent years due to long since forgotten religious rivalries - Mönchengladbach was Catholic and Rheydt was Protestant. Both towns, and the former independent town of Wickrath, now form one city of about 263,000 inhabitants under a single Oberbürgermeister and Oberstadtdirektor and town council.

The town of Viersen also lies between the rivers Maas and Rhine and now encompasses the smaller towns of Dulken and Suchteln. A single town council administers the three towns.

With the occupation of the area by the American and Canadian Forces in 1945 various administrative lines of communication units were located in the vicinity of Mönchengladbach, Rheydt and Viersen. This pattern has continued over the years albeit on a much reduced scale. In 1955 the old Mönchengladbach Station changed to a Detachment of the Rheindahlen Area Support Unit. In this role it oversaw the closure of much of what formed the old station. Today the Mönchengladbach Detachment administers one barracks (Ayrshire South) which houses a wide range of units and MOD sponsored civilian organisations.

The extension of the autobahn complex around Mönchengladbach and Viersen has greatly improved road communications. It is now possible to join the autobahn just outside Javelin Barracks or within a few miles of Wildenrath and travel with ease to many of the major European centres.

Cologne (Köln)

Lying some 44 miles to the south of us here in Elmpt, Cologne is one of the greatest and most historic cities in Western Europe. The Roman Emperor Augustus built Cologne as a military fort. He named it in honour of his wife Agrippina and it was known as Colonia Agrippinensis; later this was abbreviated to Colonia and then to the German Köln. In the 8th century the Emperor Charlemagne granted this great trading community City status and its Archbishops became very powerful. By 1248 work had commenced on the great Cathedral designed to house the Golden Casket containing the legendary remains of the three wise men of the Orient. Archbishop Rainald Von Dassel took this casket from Milan in 1164. The Cathedral still serves this original function and the famous golden casket can be seen by all today, resting above the high altar. The Cathedral was completed only in the 1870s. The prosperity of the city continued into the Middle Ages and many fine buildings and churches testify to this. Cologne went into decline during the second half of the 16th century, largely because of religious wars and the consequent breakdown of trade. This decline continued till 1815 when Cologne was made a Prussian fortified city and, later on, when navigation

on the Rhine became possible. Cologne once again exerted its influence on German trade.

Today Cologne's industries include motor car and heavy vehicle production, perfume factories, cable works and chemical plants which are famed throughout the world. In spite of a 70% total destruction by bombing during the Second World War, Cologne has risen from ashes and rubble to become once again one of the most beautiful cities in Germany; its restaurants, theatres and places of interest rival most in Europe.

Düsseldorf

The city of Düsseldorf nestling on the banks of the Rhine came into being about 700 AD with the founding of the Benedict Monastery by St Swidbert in the area of Kaiserswerth. The first documentary mention of Düsseldorf as such dates back to 1135 AD, when the town took its name from the River Düssel, which flows into the Rhine. Dorf being German for village, we have the 'Village on the Düssel'.

By 1510 the town was raised to the status of a capital of the Duchies of Julich, Kleve, Berg and the Estates of Mark and Ravensberg, and from this period the town was fast becoming a centre of culture and industry.

Düsseldorf is the birthplace of Johann Wilhelm (1655) who in 1676, when he was a mere 21 years old, became the first Elector (Ruler and Statesman) of this area. He was affectionately known as 'Jan Wellem'. Jan Wellem held this high office for 37 years until his early death at the age of 58.

The 19th century heralded the Industrial Revolution and nowhere was it quite so marked as Düsseldorf where the early part of this century saw the first of the great Trade Exhibitions, the creation of the first railway in Germany, the establishment of many industries in the surrounding areas and the founding of the Düsseldorf Stock Exchange.

The city has much to offer to anyone looking for places of interest and recreation. These include excellent shopping facilities; Opera and Theatres; Cinemas; Concert Halls; Night Clubs (many and varied); Swimming Pools (outdoor and indoor); Aquarium and Natural History Museum; Museums and Art Galleries; An annual visiting Circus; Boat trips on the Rhine; Restaurants (to suit all tastes and pockets); Parks; Sports Stadium; Horse Racing; Camping Sites; Airport; Bowling (9 and 10 pin); Ice Skating Rink; Exhibitions; Bundesliga Soccer Team, Bunderliga Ice Hockey Team. There are numerous good restaurants.

Some of the finest festivals in Europe are staged in this town, notably the magnificent Carnival that takes place in February or March. The Carnival procession is a superb affair and takes some two hours to pass.

It might be though that because of the accent on industry, the town lacks natural beauty, but nothing could be further from the truth. There are a vast number of parks in and around this fair city. Through its main thoroughfare winds the River Düssel and the town is regarded as the Paris of West Germany.

Opera- This is first class and very cheap season tickets can be obtained before the start of each season (October) from the box office or through the Information Germany or HIVE JHQ.

Altstadt (old town) -An area between the Königsallee and the Rhine containing restaurants, bars, discotheques and 'way out' shops. The Soho of Düsseldorf, with all the good and bad points that this implies. Careful thought should be given before letting the more impressionable youngsters loose on their own.

Oberhausen.

The city is about an hour and a half away via the autobahn. Centro, a large city shopping centre equivalent to Meadow Hall/Lakeside with many well-known stores and European brand names. The centre also has a full range of restaurants, Warner Brothers Cinema Village, also indoor and outdoor themed areas for family entertainment and plenty of car parking.

German Customs

Never on Sundays. If you are new to Germany it is as well to be aware of some of the more unusual customs, practices and law relating to certain activities on Sundays. For example, cars may not be washed (it is in fact an offence to wash a car on the road at any time), bonfires, which may cause offence should not be lit, windows may not be cleaned and all forms of manual labour, e.g. gardening, are frowned upon. In the interests of good Anglo-German relations do try and refrain from carrying out any activities, which give offence to the local population.

Some Local Customs

Your contact with Germany will be much more enjoyable if you take an interest in some of the local traditions. Here are just a few examples:

Schützenfest. Many villages in this part of Germany hold an annual festival known as a Schützenfest. This is a sort of huntsmen's festival at which the Schützenkönig 'the king of the huntsmen' is crowned. The Schützenkönig has to win a shooting competition but, since he needs to be fairly well off to keep up his entertaining commitments during his period in office, the result of the competition is often a foregone conclusion.

Kirmes. You will see advertised on posters throughout the Mönchengladbach area, especially in summer, a village festival called Kirmes. This was traditionally held to celebrate the consecration of the local church. There are the usual fun fairs, market stalls and dances, though the religious origins are also not ignored and the church is very much involved in the festival.

Karneval. The Karneval season is a speciality of the Rheinland. It begins on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 am, but things really 'hot up' during the weeks leading up to Lent. The highlights, apart from the numerous Karneval Balls and drinking and joke sessions known as Sitzungen are the processions held in Cologne, Düsseldorf and Mainz on the day before Shrove Tuesday, known as Rosemontag. Mönchengladbach has its procession on the following day, Veilchendienstag, and there is always a children's procession and smaller celebrations in Rheindahlen village on the Sunday.

Weinfeste. All along the Rhine and Mosel during late summer and early autumn there are wine festivals. Each village selects a different time, but the pattern is fairly standard: plenty of drinking and merry-making. However, it is a good thing to go with somebody who knows something about wine, because you may end up paying more for wine than you would in the local supermarket!

Der Rhein in Flammen. Taking place from July to October in various locations, the 'Rhine in Flames' is a spectacle not to be missed. Best seen from the river itself at Koblenz, the illuminations along this romantic stretch of the Rhine provide one of the sights of Germany.

BURG WEGBERG
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

WELCOME TO BURG WEGBERG

DAILY BREAKFAST BUFFET
Mo. - Fr. 06.30 - 10.30
Sa. & Su. 07.30 - 10.30
9,50 EURO P.P.

EACH SUNDAY
11.30 - 14.30
FAMILY-BRUNCH
21,50 EURO P.P.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
CANDLE-LIGHT-DINER
INCL. WELCOME DRINK
24,50 EURO P.P.

WE HAVE THE ROOMS
FOR WEDDING-PARTYS,
MEETINGS & FUNCTIONS

PLEASE CONTACT US
FOR INFORMATION
& RESERVATION !

BURGSTRASSE 8, 41844 WEGBERG
TEL: 02434 / 98 22-0, FAX: 02434 / 98 22-222
INFO@BURG-WEGBERG.DE, WWW.BURG-WEGBERG.DE



CAFÉ RESTAURANT
„Alte Brüggener Kühle“


Since 1289
41379 Brüggen
Burgwall 3
Tel: 02163/6322
Thomas Hoeveler
Mondays Closed
Meals from 11.30 - 22.00hrs
About 120 seats - 90 outdoor seats

Specialities of the house:

- Barbecues on charcoal at the original millstone for groups from 8 people on advance booking
- Eating from the giant cast iron frying pan
- Drawing your own beer (for groups) at the original Diebels turntable barrel
- Rides with the covered waggon

By the way: frying pan and turntable barrel can also be hired for your home.
Always changing menu for cake and salad buffet.

On sale Bitburger Pils, Diebels ALT, Gaffel Kölsch, Krombacher Pils and Paulaner Weizenbier on draught.



Whenever you think about your next holiday, think

TUI ReiseCenter Brüggen

Partner of all the well known travel companies like TUI, Thomas Cook, ITS, Tjaereborg, alltours, DER etc.
We sell ferry tickets, train tickets, cruises, hotel reservation service and worldwide flights.

Opening hours

Mo - Fr 9:00 - 19:00
Sat 10:00 - 14:00
Tel: 02163/5021
Fax: 02163/5022
e-mail info@brueggener-reisebuero.de
web www.brueggener-reisebuero.de
Bornerstr. 1, 41379 Brüggen

and yes, we do speak English.

Holland

Venlo. The Dutch town of Venlo is much larger than Roermond with a greater number of shops. The town is about 20 miles from the Stn. The Information Office (VV) is in Keulsepoort at the corner of Juliana Park at the roundabout in Venlo adjacent to the Railway Station. A Saturday morning market is held and the shops remain open on Saturdays until 1700 hours. The Town Hall and a number of other buildings date from the 16th Century, while the Hoofdkerk (church) dates from the 15th Century. The Tourist Information telephone number is 0031 77 3543800.

Amsterdam. More suited for a weekend visit, best seen by boat on one of the many canals circling the heart of the city. Recommended sights: Queen's Palace, the Old Mint Tower, diamond factories and Portuguese synagogue; north of the city, Volendam, Edam and Marhen give a glimpse of the 'Old Holland' - quaint villages with traditional dykes and decorated wooden houses; the locals wear native costume too.

Arnhem. 5 km west of Arnhem at Doorwerth Castle Oosterbeek (road signed). The museum is north of the town (Openlucht Museum). Holland's largest nature reserve is the National Park de Hoge Veluwe. Situated in the park is the Kroller-Muller Museum with a Van Gogh collection. In Gulpen there is a trout hatchery with a children's playground. This can be combined with a run out to Drieland Punt at Vaals. Here there is a large open space suitable for picnics and games for the children. There are also a couple of towers, which can be climbed; these give a view of Holland, Belgium and Germany. (Gulpen is situated between Maastricht and Aachen - 221 to Geilenkirchen, follow signs to Heerlen - Valkenburg to Gulpen).

Berg en Dal. Near Nijmegen; an African village museum (221 to Geldern - Route 9 to Weeze-Kranenberg, continue to Nijmegen until the turn off for Berg en Dal).

De Efteling. Large recreational and amusement park. Water organ, steam carousel and enchanted forest where all the fairy tales are illustrated with animated models. Boating and canoeing plus large picnic lawns. (Situated near Kaatsheuvel. 221 to Venlo- E3 to Eindhoven/Tilburg, follow signs Loop-Op-Zand and Kaatsheuvel until you see the signs for De Efteling).

Keukenhof. This is about 3!/€ hours drive away and a visitor may prefer to include it in a weekend trip to Amsterdam. However, it is possible to make a day trip. Keukenhof is the national display garden of the Dutch bulb industry. It takes approximately 3 - 6 hours to see all the displays. The best time to go is at the end of April/beginning of May.

Maastricht. This historical city lies on the rivers Meuse and Jeker and is one of the oldest in the Netherlands. It has a rich heritage and wealth of historic monuments, some 1450 being protected by law. The whole of the city centre has been declared a "protected area" and thoroughly recommended are the guided walks given by the Tourist Office (VV) in Kleine Straat 1. There are many excellent shops, boutiques and restaurants. The shops are closed Monday mornings, open Tuesday - Friday 0900 - 1800, Saturdays 0900 - 1700 and Thursdays it is late night opening until 2100 hours. On Saturdays there is a flea market in Stationstraat and on Wednesday and Friday mornings a general wares market in the Market Square. Maastricht Airport provides some flights. The Tourist Information telephone number is 0031 43 3252121.

Overloon. War museum set out in wooded area, which was the sight of a major battle in World War 2. Collection of tanks and guns and army vehicles. A central museum houses exhibits, photographs and propaganda material. Plenty of wooded

areas adjacent to the museum suitable for picnic. There are also restaurants inside the museum (221 to Venlo - follow signs for Horst through Venray and Overloon).

Markets in the Local Area

Rheindahlen:	Fri 1300 - 1800 hrs
Rheydt:	Wed and Sat 0700 - 1300 hrs.
Mönchengladbach:	Tue, Thu and Sat 0700 - 1300 hrs (Alte Markt);
Wegberg:	Fri morning
Waldniel:	Tue and Fri mornings
Viersen:	Fri and Sat mornings.
Erkelenz:	Fri morning
Wickwrath:	Thu 0700 - 1300 hrs
Venlo (Holland):	Sat 0900 - 1200 hrs
Roermond (Holland):	Sat 0900 - 1230 hrs

FRESSNAPF

Alles für Ihr Tier



Your Specialist for Pet Food & Accessories
We speak English

Fressnapf-Schwalmtal
Vogelsrather Weg 25b
41366 Schwalmtal
Tel.: 02163-4153
Fax.: 02163-31437

Fressnapf-Elmpt
Hauptstr. 189
41372 Niederkrüchten
Tel.: 02163-844177
Fax.: 02163-844179



Security and Crime Prevention

Security

Germany Guard Service

The Germany Guard Service (GGS) is a civilian security force employed within Elmpt Station. Their primary role is the control of access to Javelin Barracks and access control to the Wildenrath Estate.

They are also responsible for patrolling both locations.

They wear a dark blue uniform and are armed.

Any difficulties involving the GGS should be addressed through Station Headquarters.

Security

Both Javelin Barracks and Wildenrath are large open plan estates and those involved in its security rely heavily on the assistance of all those who live and work there in countering the Terrorist Threat. Do not be afraid to report anything that may arouse your suspicion such as an unattended car, package, bag or someone behaving in a suspicious manner. Reports should be made immediately to the RMP Police Station at JHQ.

Operation Keenwind

The Keenwind Alert State has been redefined The following codes are used to describe the current threat level:

Keenwind Levels

Normal (White sign with black lettering)

Routine baseline protective security measures, appropriate for the establishment, should be in place to protect staff/visitors/buildings.

Should the threat rise consideration should be given to additional measures that are appropriate at each location. Some precautionary measures may be worth deploying.

Heightened (Black sign with white lettering)

A HEIGHTENED response level recommends consideration of additional protective security countermeasures above NORMAL to address the threat, and to reflect specific vulnerabilities and the degree of acceptable risk. Measures deployed should be sustainable indefinitely; they may also be applied as a precautionary measure for a specific period.

Exceptional (Amber sign with black lettering)

The EXCEPTIONAL response level requires consideration and implementation of maximum protective security measures to minimise vulnerabilities and risk. Extra measures implemented are likely to be sustainable for a limited period only.

Key Security Measures on Keenwind

The actual actions to be taken vary according to the alert state; these are published monthly or more frequently if required. The following are some security precautions,



that are in place at all times:

- a. Parking. **Do NOT** park your vehicle within 25m of any sleeping accommodation at any time and on Keenwind Black or above within 25m of any occupied building.
- b. Objects. **Do NOT** place large objects, such as bins, within 25m of a building on Keenwind Black or above. Do NOT leave objects such as bags or parcels unattended in public buildings (eg NAAFI) at any time.
- c. Deliveries. **Check** any deliveries to your unit or home and report anything suspicious.
- d. Dress. German Hospitals must **NOT** be visited in uniform or mixed dress.
- e. Routine. **Avoid** routine particularly if you live outside of Javelin Bks, vary your routes and timings as far as is possible.
- f. Vehicles. **Avoid** items that will easily identify your vehicle as belonging to a member of the services. Search your vehicle when it has been left unattended in a public place and keep it garaged when possible.
- g. Married accommodation. **Avoid** displaying items of military clothing on washing lines (MQs outside Javelin Bks).

Owning Pets in Germany

Responsible Ownership

Ownership of a pet involves certain responsibilities. This section is a guide to these responsibilities which include those, imposed by regulations, to ensure animal health and welfare and precautions to preserve human health.

German Legislation on Dangerous Dogs - Registration and Controlling Dogs owned by BFG Personnel

Introduction

You should be aware that due to a fatal incident the 16 German Lander (State) authorities enacted laws in July 2000, which restricted the owning and breeding of certain breeds of dogs. This legislation was enacted separately and differs between the 16 Lander. Additionally, Federal (National) legislation has been enacting banning the importation of certain dog breeds into Germany.

Owning Dogs - General

Current procedures for the keeping and registering of dogs is laid down in SOs BA(G) 3359 (Control of Dogs in BFG and The Pet Scheme) 3208 (Discipline) and 3360 (Veterinary Services in BFG). Dogs owned by members of BFG are not subject to German Dog Tax, however permission to own a dog must be obtained from SHOs through Unit Welfare Officers or CO (for single personnel) before they arrive in station.

All dogs must wear a disc bearing the owner's address and telephone number and must be registered with a Veterinary surgeon. Dogs found straying by the RMP or GCP will be impounded by being taken to the local Tierheim, and may be destroyed if sick or dangerous. In open country, dogs must be kept under proper control; in Germany game wardens have considerable rights, which may include shooting the dog if it is considered not to be under control.

Owning Dangerous Dog Breeds - Procedure for Registration

Registration Process. All dog owners, irrespective of breed, are required to register their pet with the local SHO. Registration takes place within the SHO's office in Bldg 3, Javelin Bks. Owners of dogs classified as "dangerous" will be subject to more rigorous tests before the keeping of these breeds is approved. Once the registration process is complete and approval given, a permit authorising ownership will be issued by the local Ordnungsamt through the local Services Liaison Officer (SLO) and SHO. SHOs will be required to retain the Registration Proforma until you are posted.

Veterinary Services

German veterinary surgeons can be found in the German telephone directory under 'Tierärzte'. All animal owners should ensure that they have a veterinarian's telephone number available for an emergency involving their pet.

Dr M Herrman	Beltinghovener Strasse 1	Tel: MG 25003
Mr John Bruckner	Bruckstr 78 5140 Erkelenz	Tel: 02431-2338
Dr Meier	Regentenstr 108 4050 M/Gladbach	Tel: 02163-4246 Or Tel: MG 26736
Dr B Ullman	Grachstrasse 13 5144 Wegberg	Tel: 02434-4105

Rabies

Rabies (Tollwut) is prevalent in this part of Germany. Rabies areas are notified in local newspapers and in Unit Orders. In rabies areas dogs must be kept leashed in built up areas and under strict control in the country. This means the dog must be instantly obedient to your commands. Cats are not allowed to roam and must be kept in at all times. Heavy fines will be imposed if you do not comply, and there is a risk of your pet being shot.

Remember

Your pet is your responsibility - for advice please call the HIVE - never abandon an animal - a good home may be available.

Police

101 PROVOST COMPANY ROYAL MILITARY POLICE - (101 PRO COY RMP)
SPECIALIST OPERATIONS UNIT ROYAL MILITARY POLICE (GERMANY) - (SPEC OPS UNIT RMP (G))

The Royal Military Police (RMP) provide a 24hr police service from the JHQ Police Station located in the centre of the RMC, at the junction of Queens Ave and Tromp Rd. The Police Station is clearly signed from all three main entrances to the RMC. The RMP conduct routine patrols in marked police cars, motorcycles and on foot throughout the RMC and all the outlying barrack and married accommodation areas.

TELEPHONE:	MILITARY:	JHQ 2333 / 4000
	CIVILIAN:	02161-472-2333 / 4000
EMERGENCIES***	MILITARY:	JHQ 2222
	CIVILIAN:	02161-472-2222
FIRE	MILITARY:	4444
	CIVILIAN:	02163-974444



MEDICAL	MILITARY:	3333
	CIVILIAN:	02161-472-3333
BFG CRIMELINE	FREEPHONE	08001842222

German Civil Police

The German Police have a small detachment in the RMC, co-located in the same building as the RMP. The German Police are empowered to deal with any incident within the RMC as they would in any other part of Germany. Be aware that this includes the issue of 'spot fines' for minor offences.

TELEPHONE:	CIVILIAN:	02161-558365
EMERGENCIES***	POLICE:	110
	FIRE/AMBULANCE:	112

*** Numbers for Emergency services throughout Germany. If you do not speak German it may be better to use the RMP number.

Royal Air Force Provost and Security Services (Germany) - RAF P & SS (G)

The RAF P&SS have a Unit based in the RMC, which is located in building 1, at the junction of Queens Ave and Antrim Drive. The Unit provides specialist criminal and security investigative services to the RAF community within BFG and the rest of continental Europe. Whilst having no policing responsibilities within the area, RAF personnel may seek single Service advice on police/security matters via the Regional Warrant Officer. All police matters should be reported through the RMP, who will liaise with the P & SS as required.

TELEPHONE:	MILITARY:	JHQ -4210
	CIVILIAN:	02161- 472-4210

THE MILITARY CODE FOR JHQ FROM JAVELIN BKS IS 72

General Information

Police

In order to help to ensure that we maintain a safe environment in which to live and work, you are requested to inform, immediately, the RMP Police Station of anything which appears strange or out of the ordinary, no matter how trivial it may seem. Prompt action could be of vital importance and may prevent a crime being committed. When making emergency calls please speak clearly in order to allow the Service Policeman or woman taking the call to assess the situation and task the appropriate agency.

Crime Reduction

Advice on crime reduction and many more subjects is available to the Service community within the RMC. The initial point of contact should be the Crime Reduction Officer or through the JHQ Police Station.

TELEPHONE:	MILITARY:	JHQ 72- 2334
	CIVILIAN:	02161-472-2334