



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

July 2018

Volume 14, Issue 3



## Reunion 2020: Seattle WASHINGTON 4-7 June



The vote was taken; membership decided on Seattle! Some Seattle sights and activities: Pike Place Market; craft beer brewery tours; kayaking on Lake Union; the Space Needle; guitar tower at the Experience Music Project; Seattle Aquarium; Mariners baseball, Tillicum Village (bear!); Chihuly Garden and Glass; underground city tours, Gold Rush and Boeing museums, and more.







### Berliners celebrating Rob and Holly's engagement!

Rob Ahrens '87, fiancée Holly (in center of photo to left); Julie (Davis) Morris '87, Karrie (Kotcher) Wymer '86 and spouse William Wymer, Tom Carey '87, Chris Erickson '87, Jill (DeBerry) Bonds '87, Steve Kinzie '87, Kristy O'Hearne '86, Marnie (Nelson) Sizemore '87, Vince Lingner '82, and Anthony Sims '87. Hoboken, NJ.



## The World Cup and its influence on German history

by GermanyinUSA  
18 June 2018

The 2018 World Cup has begun! With the games currently underway in Russia, let's take a look back at some of Germany's most important matches - and the meaning these games had for the German people.

During the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland, West Germany took home the gold, beating Hungary 3-2. At the time, Europe was still recovering from World War

many experienced its only loss of the tournament in a game against East Germany, thanks to a goal scored by Jürgen Sparwasser.

The fall of the Wall marked another turning point in German soccer: the 1990 World Cup was once again won by the West German team, but it was clear that this would be the last time Germany competed with two teams. The victory was celebrated by both German teams, and a few months later, they were united. At the

time, German soccer player Franz Beckenbauer was convinced that the united team would become unbeatable in the years to come.

And of course, most of us remember Germany's most recent World Cup victory from 2014, which was also Germany's first championship title since the 1990 championship.

Since the establishment of the World Cup in 1930, Germany has claimed four World Cup victories and hosted the games twice. Germany's first World Cup game of 2018 took place on Sunday against Mexico and the second match will be held this coming Saturday against Sweden. Who will you be rooting for?

*Note: After this article was written, Germany was eliminated before the semi-finals in the 2018 World Cup.*



The German National Team before their final game in the 1954 World Cup. Photos by dpa/picture-alliance.

II, and Germany was struggling to rebuild itself and its reputation in the global community. The World Cup victory gave Germany a newfound sense of pride and happiness. Some historians even consider this victory a turning point for post-war Germany.

"It was a kind of liberation for the Germans from all the things that weighed down upon them after the Second World War," wrote German historian Joachim Fest. "July 4, 1954, is in certain aspects the founding day of the German Republic."

Twenty years later, West Germany became the host of the 1974 World Cup, which reinforced Germany's sense of community on the world stage. The West German team also won the championship that year. But one of the most memorable moments in German soccer was when West Ger-



Germany beats Argentina in the 1990 World Cup.







## CONNECTIONS



### McDonald's Houston Children's Festival

Had a great time volunteering at the McDonald's Houston Children's Festival, under the leadership of our #1 BAHS sister, Shannon Teasley '88. This woman is a hardworking and dynamic leader. She represented well for Berlin American High School and Overseas Brats ([www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)) with such grace and efficiency. Thanks, Shan, for the opportunity to serve with you and learn from you!

— Marissa McKinnies '93

9 April

### Fun in California

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Carl Fenstermacher '73 linked up with Sam McCuskey '71 and wife Andi at Beaumont's in LaJolla, CA.  
27 April



### Road trip hook-up

While doing a road trip across several states, Gary Robinson '74 and wife Susan (back row) met up with old friend, little league teammate, and fellow Brat Michael Rodgers '75 and his wife Sherry -- and took in a Royals game!  
24 April



## BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

### 50 years, no change

Magda (Gonzalez) Miley '66 met up with Donna (Foxworth) Cumbee '66 near Jacksonville, FL in April.



I'm soooo happy that we got together! We enjoyed our time together, but it just wasn't long enough! It's amazing that after 50-some years, we talked like it was yesterday. Magda, you are just as sweet as you were back then. --Donna

## M i a m i, F L



25 March

Lisa (Begue) Carey '85 having dinner in Miami with Michael James '87! We survived the '80s in West Berlin!



# Rebuttal to the Ernst-Reuter-Platz Caper background notes on: Berlin high school sports teams' sta-

by Steven Denton '67

I recently read the entertaining and informative article in the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter Volume 14, Issue 1, dated January 2018. Kent Kay's '65 article was humorous and interesting, in part because I was a student at Thomas A. Roberts High School (Berlin American High School). I was also a Pan American Airlines "brat" along with Mr. Kay during that time. While I have no issue with Mr. Kay's description of events involving the "foaming attack" on the Ernst Reuter Platz fountain, I must rise to the defense of the sports teams at the school during that time as referred to in the "Background Notes" section of the article.

Specifically, Mr. Kay referred to the utter lack of achievement of the BHS varsity sports football, basketball, and soccer teams in their league play against "C"

League opponents in West German American military high schools in Bad Kreutznach, Bitburg, and Karlsruhe: "we lost to them all. Outside of Johnny Booth '65, our diminutive Korean wrestling star, the Berlin Bears were losers in all sports." I object!

First, the team was the Berlin "Cubs," not Berlin "Bears" (that change came about in 1976). More importantly, the statement is incorrect. Kent Kay and I were teammates on the 1964 Berlin American High School football team which went undefeated and were the Division "C" League Champions. He was on that team!

I have attached to this rebuttal a photograph of Kent Kay, myself, and three others who were the Pan American dependents on the 1964 team. The quarterback of that team was Lear Von Koch '64 who was an extremely talented athlete and also led the basketball team that same year.

I am submitting as evidence the page of the 1964 Yearbook *Erinnerungen*, describing in detail the success of that football team. Ben Wheaton '65, Ross Calvert '65, Lee Angel '64, Skip Jiru '66, and Johnny Booth were standouts on that football team. The yearbook for 1963 indicates that the Berlin Cubs, coached by Mr.



# tus during the Cuban Missile Crisis

Fitzpatrick, went undefeated in league play that year also. The 1965 football team did not win the conference championship but still managed a 3-wins-to-1-loss league record. Kent Kay was a running back on that football team. Johnny Booth was a standout "all conference" running back. Jerry Blount '65 was the quarterback on that team.

The basketball team for 1963-64 were USAREUR co-champs. Lear Von Koch, Lee Angel, Robert Sloan '66, and John Wilfong '65, were strong performers on that team. Wrestling was introduced that same year as a sport at BHS and Johnny Booth was eventually a star wrestler, along with Jerry D'Amore '67. Kent was on the soccer team and they well could have been less than successful during that time. Still, this record is hardly consistent with the BHS sports teams being "losers in all sports."

To look more closely at these and other football and team photos in the yearbooks, please visit our website: [www.BerlinBrats.org](http://www.BerlinBrats.org), then click on "yearbooks" from the index, and then select '64 Yearbook.



Bottom Row: Mr. Esip - coach, John Booth - captain, John Stanturf, Donald Hays, Steve Denton, Edward Jiru, Bob Whitson, Marlowe White, Ernie White, Mr. Kronenberg - coach  
Second Row: John Wilfong, Kent Kay, Donald Coleman, Mark Kuder, Vernon Stockbridge, Patrick Gilmore, Keith Taylor, Jerry Blount, Ross Calvert  
Third Row: Robert Ford - manager, Benson Peterson, David Vudach, Jack Gander, Dale Patenaude, Carl Pilkington, George Gilmore, Steve Kelsey  
Back Row: Gregory Hooker, Steve Coleman, Harry Calvert, Gary Terwilliger, Bill Devens, Mike Davis, Frank Chisholm - manager

## Football

Berlin High School's Varsity Football Squad for 1964 presented a very commendable, if not championship, seasonal performance. In a newly jumbled conference and under an entirely new coaching staff and system, the Cubs were ckd out of their 3rd consecutive championship by a team wch Berlin never even faced on the gridiron. The Bitty Bruins started the season off very admirably with a 16-0 downing of the Wiesbaden J. V. team. Coaches Kronenberg and Esip, with technical advisor, Maj. Campbell, were allowed on the field during the game to give first-hand coaching.

The Kaiserslautern J.V.'s met the increased wrath of the little Bears and fell victim number 14, as the patented Blount-White passing combination came into being in a 27-7 victory for Berlin. The following week spelled disaster for Berlin's first conference victims, the Bremerhaven Black-Hawks. Backs Calvert and Booth, continually peiced their defensive line to raise the Berlin yardage-gained to 402 as compared to Bremerhaven's 91, in a 33-6 victory. The inevitable ending came after Berlin established a record 15 game winning streak. The Baby Bears lost a heartbreaker to the Würzburg Wolves. The Calvert brothers and tackle John Stanturf were defensive standouts. Still unrecovered, the Cubs fought mud, rain, wind, cold and the Karlsruhe eleven. Suffering from lost spark, the Berliners stumbled in their 2nd conference game; losing the championship in a narrow 14-13 upset.

The fighting spirit regained, the Cubs presented their most spectacular game against Bad Kreuznach Bearkats. A 26-13 victory brought Berlin it's second conference win. The Cubs rolled over their season's-end victims; Bremerhaven, back for a second try, in their Homecoming Game. This 23-6 victory left Berlin with a 3-1 conference record.

Ross Calvert



John Booth  
All Conference Halfback



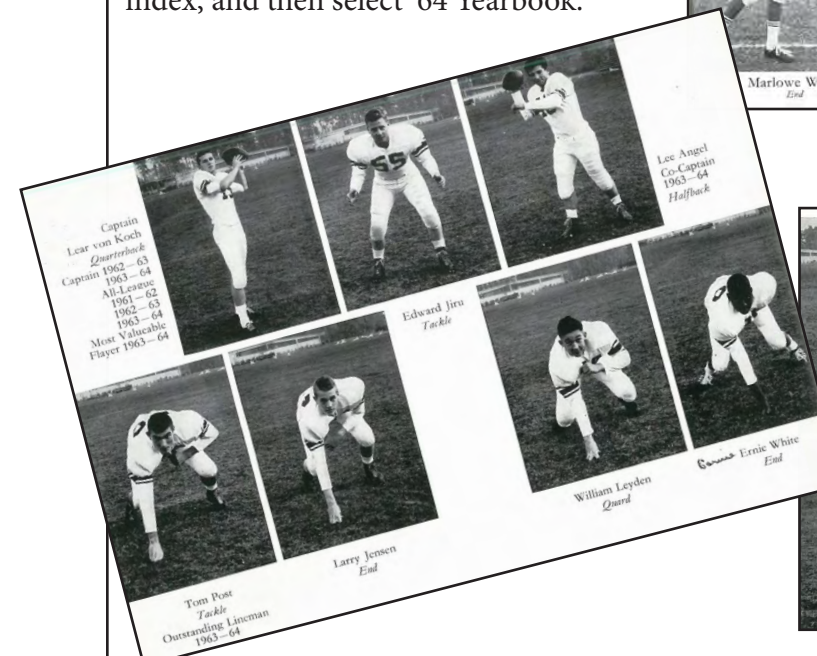
Marlowe White  
End



Kent Kay  
Halfback



Ross Calvert  
Fullback



Captain  
Lear von Koch  
Quarterback  
Captain 1963-64  
All-League  
1961-62  
1962-63  
1963-64  
Most Valuable  
Player 1963-64

Tom Post  
Tackle  
Outstanding Linebacker  
1963-64

Larry Jensen  
End

Edward Jiru  
Tackle

William Leyden  
Guard

Ernie White  
End

## Berlin's Score

Berlin 25 — Bitburg 14  
Berlin 6 — Bad Kreuznach 0  
Berlin 40 — Toul 0  
Berlin 61 — Karlsruhe 6  
Berlin 26 — Bremerhaven 0  
Berlin 35 — Bitburg 0

Ben Wheaton  
Fullback

Steve Denton  
Center

Johnny Booth  
Halfback

Robert McMorris  
Guard



# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



## Hamming it up in Seattle!



Matt Austin '87, Natalie Wilson '86, Steve Kinzie '87, and Mason Sherry '87 at the Paramount Theatre the weekend of 19 May.

## “German meal fix” in Mesa, AZ



L side, front to back: Reed Kempton, spouse, Bertie Echeveste, spouse, Mr. Echeveste “Mr Ech” - FAC '66-'69, Bob Orozco, spouse (in Hawaiian shirt). R side, front to back: Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Diana (Green) Kempton '72, and Diana (Shaw) Orozco '66. At Zur Kate, 18 May.

## Farewell to one of our oldest Brats, Jean (Crews) Derry '48

*Obituary published in The Palm Beach Post on June 3, 2018 with inserted text from Berlin remembrances*

Some of you who were in Berlin in 2006 for the Reunion may remember Jean (Crews) Derry '48. She was one of the original cheerleaders for the Berlin High/Berlin Cub's team in 1947 and she hadn't slowed down any in 2006.

Born March 3, 1932, in Washington, DC, Jean Derry, 86, a longtime resident of Jupiter, FL, died peacefully on the morning of May 27, 2018, at “The Waterford” in Juno Beach. She was preceded in death by her two husbands Bill Owens of California and Joseph Derry of Jupiter, FL. She is survived by her daughter Jan Derry-Jensen and husband, son, step-daughter, and step-sons, brother, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jean graduated from Berlin American High School in Germany and was in the first graduating class of the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Schools following WWII. Her mother ordered all the school books and curricula to get BAHS off the ground immediately after WWII. Jean's daughter, Jan, is a DoDDs teacher in the Pacific, having taught at Chicksands, Greenham Common, Uden, A.T. Mahan, Chaffee, Taegu, Würzburg, Bahrain, Bechtel, Giessen, Ankara, Sullivans, and Yokohama, Japan. Jean was extremely proud of her daughter being a DoDDs educator.

Jean maintained her association with her BAHS schoolmates and was an active member of Overseas Brats. She attended Westhampton College of the University of Richmond, Virginia, and graduated from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia with a degree in Political Science and History with a Foreign Language minor. She finished her schooling with a Masters in Education from Florida Atlantic University. She taught in California, Venezuela, and Palm Beach County, retiring after 29 years there.

Throughout her life, Jean traveled at every opportunity, visiting more than 130 countries, and collecting numerous dolphins, lighthouses, and Christmas nutcrackers. She volunteered as a guide at the Jupiter Lighthouse museum. She was also a tutor at “The Waterford,” assisting employees with reading, spelling, and English grammar. Condolences and thoughts should be addressed to her daughter at (janjohnjensen@gmail.com).

“I will miss my talks with her,” said Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72. “She always called after she received each issue of the newsletter to talk about



Former cheerleaders Jean (Crews) Derry '48, Sandi (Hoosack) Trader '71, Debbie (Hoosack) Jones '72, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Kim (McLean) Hunt '77, and Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79 at the 1998 regional in Melbourne, FL.



Jean as a junior in Berlin in 1947.



Jean with Ray Holmes '69 in Melbourne.

it.” A lot of Brats met Jean at the 1998 regional in Melbourne, FL, or at the 2006 Reunion in Berlin.



# Berlin Brat finds that home is where the Brats are

by Michelle (Barsch) Abbott '84

(with special thanks to Suzanne (Wood) Koziatek '82)

All of us Brats have that experience of being the one who's "not from here" in a new crowd. My recent trip to attend my son's high school graduation in Washington, D.C. was one of those experiences-- but it also reinforced the sense of community we overseas Brats can share, even in difficult situations.

I knew there would be some awkward moments at the event; my sons live with my ex-husband, and I don't know their friends or their classmates' parents. The trip from my home in Georgia came with its own challenges, since money is tight. In fact, up until what seemed like the last minute, I wasn't even sure I'd be able to travel to the D.C. area.

But when I casually and cautiously posted something on our "Berlin America High School (BAHS)" Facebook page about my trip and its obstacles, within moments several BAHS alumni eagerly responded to claim me as their own! I had former classmates wrestling with each other to offer me the very beds they sleep in. Round-trip plane tickets were generously provided by honorary alumni Mike Friedrich. No, really: This sounds like an exaggeration, but I assure you it is not. I was humbled.

The seeds of one of these generous offers were planted last year, as my classmates and I traveled to the D.C. area to say goodbye to our dear brother Pete Murphy '84. The night before Pete's funeral, I became reacquainted with my classmate Scott Feldman '84 and met his girlfriend Nicole Elliot (T.A.R. alumna and Berlin Bear-a-Cuda). This June, barely a year later, the two of them went out of their way to make sure I had a home-away-from-home on the first of three nights in the D.C. area.

I was never alone at Reagan National Airport,

because Scott reached out to me by text the instant my plane's wheels touched the tarmac. He guided me to his waiting vehicle and he and Nicole proceeded to spoil me enough to make me wish they could adopt me! They were getting on a plane the next day, but nevertheless we stayed up half the night enjoying their excellent cuisine and sharing stories about Berlin and teaching and family and everything. I felt utterly at home, almost as if our moms and dads were somehow just out of sight, chatting in the kitchen.

The next morning, I bid farewell to Scott and Nicole, who handed my suitcase off to Katie (Murphy) Scrivener '87 so that I wouldn't have to wheel it about

all day as I visited with my sons and navigated public transportation in D.C. and Maryland. I was able to enjoy time with my sons, knowing that I would not be alone when I said goodbye to them at the end of the day. When I arrived at Katie and Frank's beautiful home, I plopped myself down at their dining room table and talked with them for hours about the trip, graduation, our sons, our love for Pete, and anything and everything — just as you do when you are with family and you can finally relax! I felt comfortable letting the laughter and the tears roll because Katie and Frank left no question that it was okay and this was the place.

On the day of my son's long-anticipated graduation, instead of feeling alone and awkward, the opposite was true because of my Berlin family. When it was time to leave for the ceremony,

I found myself getting emotional and hesitating for some reason. Katie noticed, and lovingly pressed some Kleenex into my hand and gave me a push out the door, which made all the difference in the world.

At Constitution Hall, I looked for the parent who was supposed to reach out to me upon my arrival — my son had asked a classmate's mom to sit with me



Two Brat moms link up together in DC as their sons graduate from high school. Kate (Murphy) Scrivener '88 and Michelle (Barsch) Abbott '84.

because I wasn't "from here." Every military Brat will understand this next part, in which I actually reached out to her to help her feel comfortable by saving seats for her family! No one understands the importance of this kind of hospitality like someone who has been the new person over and over again.

Soon came the moment when the ceremony and pictures were over. My son went to lunch with his father and I was left to make awkward small talk with other parents while feeling a bit like an outsider on the first day at a new school. What could have been a lonely moment was then transformed!

John Roerty '84 and I went to eighth grade together. He is a wonderful family man and BAHS alumnus who occasionally works in D.C. When he saw my Facebook post explaining my travel plans, he wasted no time telling me he would be working around the corner from Constitution Hall and suggesting that we meet after graduation to reconnect. I jumped at the chance. John and I messaged immediately after the ceremony and met up on the streets of D.C. When I saw him walking towards me a block away, I could have picked him out of the crowd because he hasn't changed since the eighth grade — he was a great guy then and still is today! We talked and looked at his old yearbooks as if we had seen each other yesterday.



John brought his 1980 yearbook so they could look at their eighth grade photos.

That evening, I was invited by Katie and Frank to join their family for a celebratory dinner before their own son's graduation. Like me, their son is an overseas Brat who spent his senior year in an unfamiliar stateside school where his time in Germany might prompt responses like, "You speak English very well!" I respect and recognize him for that sacrifice.

Also at the table were Murphy siblings

Ann Varga '82 (JFK) and her husband Joe, Tim Murphy '85 and his wife Terri, and Paul Murphy '86.

During the rest of my trip, I was honored to be included in important family moments with old friends from Berlin. Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Tim Shaw '85, and Scott Shaw '83 were in the area for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Scott and Tim's dad, Bruce Shaw. Other BAHS alumni were present to pay their respects, including Melissa (Murray) Ladd '85, Delano Adams '85, and Murphy brothers Tim and Paul. I was honored to be in their company to help celebrate the life of such a beloved family man. Afterward, Tim and his wife Terri welcomed me to their lovely home where they were working on a backyard patio project with brother-in-law Joe. I soon joined them, digging in the dirt and moving bricks -- joking about "another brick in the wall" as we worked. It was wonderful being included in their family, just as I had been with Katie and Frank, Scott and Nicole, and Jenni and Tim.

I will never forget the generosity of all of the Berlin Brats who made my trip possible -- and made it so memorable. To all of them, and all of you, I say that I may not be "from here," but you and I are from the same place. And everywhere and every time we recognize this, we are home.



John Roerty '84 and Michelle attended eighth grade together in Berlin and re-connected after all this time in D.C.



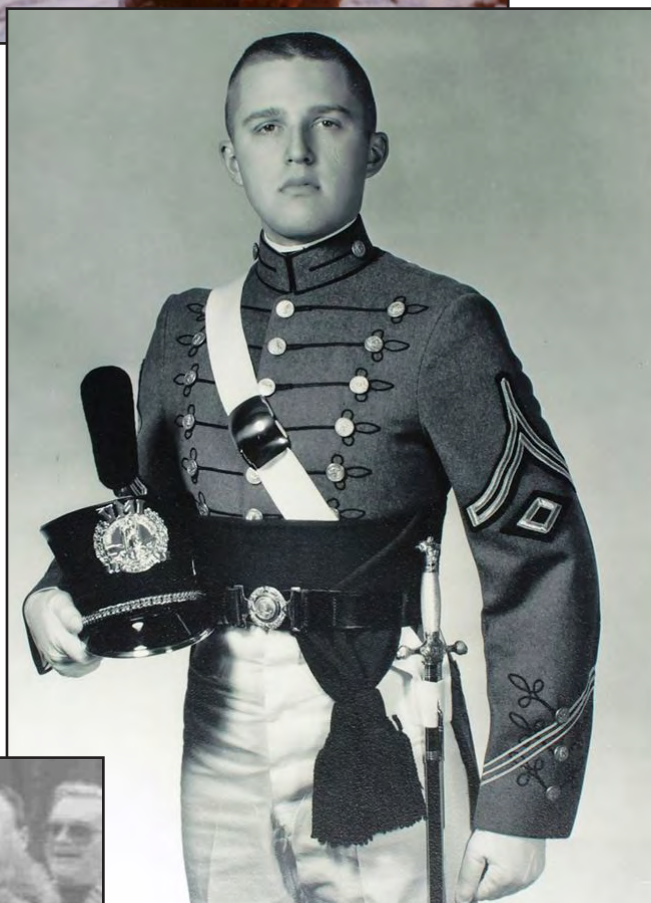
Right: 1986-87 soccer! Mr. Schmoll, FAC, and Michelle Estes '90. Michelle scored two goals in this muddy game against Ansbach, 21 March 1987.

Below: the Dirndle Gals -- Oktoberfest beer tent greeters at the 1999 Breckenridge, CO reunion: from L to R: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79, and Pat (Martel) Little '72.



Above: Jim Polley '64 as a 1968 college senior, soon to be an infantry 2nd LT.

Left: Faculty tug-of-war '86, from L to R: Mr. Lazenby (biology, chemistry); Mr. Pepoy (P.E., health); Mr. Schmoll (English, varsity soccer); Herr Prigge (German); Mr. Larson (assistant principal)



# Throwback photos

## A senior memory from 1969

by Cara (Lewis) Cobb '69

My father was transferred from Heidelberg to West Berlin in 1968, where he was assigned as the NCOIC of the Rail Transportation Office (RTO) in Lichterfelde. Our housing was a ground-floor flat at fünf am Hegewinkel, directly across the street from Berlin American High School. It was the only school year that I could wake up late and still make the first bell.

Being seniors, we did much writing in our English class, reigned by Mr. Sullivan, a rough, toad-faced man who began each day with a report on the Green Bay Packers. He coached us through reams of Shakespeare, assigning us innumerable compositions which he returned decorated with mazes of red ink. He encouraged us to be creative in our topics and relentless in our research.

I chose the subject of using marijuana as a topic for a research paper. I had never indulged in the herb but had friends that were smoking the dark hashish that was inexplicitly smuggled from East Berlin to be marketed in West Berlin. I was curious.

My dad had connections with the CID (Criminal Investigative Department) whose job was to monitor the activities of military and American civilians. I asked if he could arrange an interview with them and me.

Two suited men with buzzed haircuts and polished black shoes were seated rigidly on our living room couch when I got home from school. I took copious notes as they answered my questions regarding the health and criminal risks of using marijuana products. Their answers were terse, often interjected with, "You never want to take marijuana or smoke hash." I received an A+ on my research paper.

I also became more curious and I wanted to try mari-

juana.

Being multi-lingual, it was easy for me to assimilate into West Berlin's youth society and gain German friends. They knew how to obtain hash for me. I had schoolmates and GI buddies who knew how to obtain hash for me. Hash was readily available in West Berlin and its use was common among German teen-agers.

I smoked during class breaks, cowering under trees in the Grunewald behind the school. The Grunewald was where my mother walked our boxer dog, Duke. I watched when Duke sensed my concealment and strained against his leash; my mother, unaware, tugged him on her way.

It was not long before things slid south.

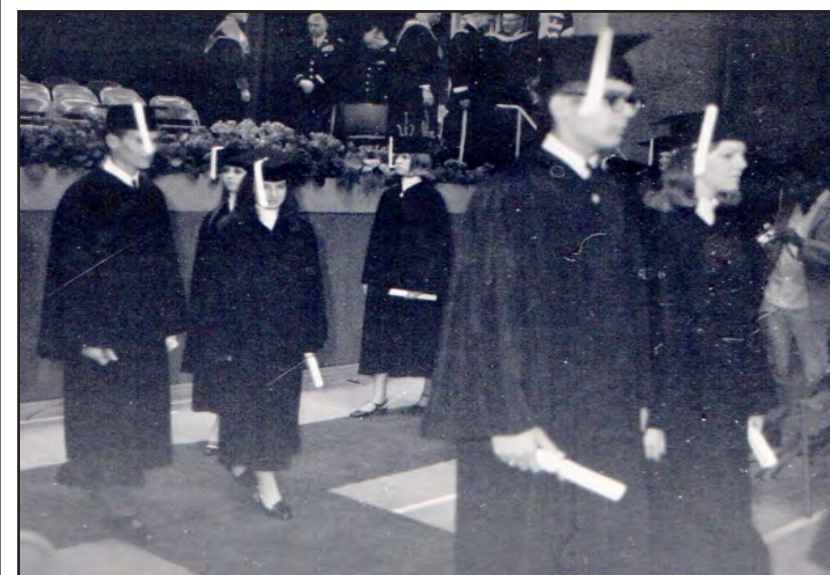
Two BAHS teachers had been consorting with my classmate and giving him marijuana. CID had been made aware of their friendship and had been watching them closely. The student was taken in for interrogation and gave names of those he knew who might be smoking marijuana. He named the two teachers and thirteen of his classmates, including me.

Under military protocol, if a dependent was involved in misbehavior, the soldier parent was called in by his commanding officer. The officer would sternly remind the parent that they were responsible for their child's behavior. The consequences for bad behavior were the responsibility of the military.

The same two suited men with buzzed haircuts and polished black shoes were seated rigidly on our living room couch when I got home from school. They were not smiling, and neither was my dad. (His CO had threatened his demotion and immediate rotation back to the U.S. if he could not "control" me.) They asked two questions: "Did you smoke hash?" "Yes," I admitted. They continued, "After interviewing us and writing a paper, why did you smoke hash?" My answer was simple, "Because I wanted to."

Based on hearsay, I and my twelve classmates were placed on probation for the last few weeks of our senior year. We were required to sign in and out of each class through the school office, a bathroom pass could only be issued by the school office, and our lunch hour was closely monitored. Should we have failed to comply, punishment was dire for our parent and us, including military disgrace and being forbidden to participate in our class graduation.

For a seventeen-year-old military dependent, it was an impactful moment. I realized that my actions, good or bad, do directly affect others within my realm. This lesson learned has endured through my lifetime.



Cara Lewis receiving her diploma in 1969



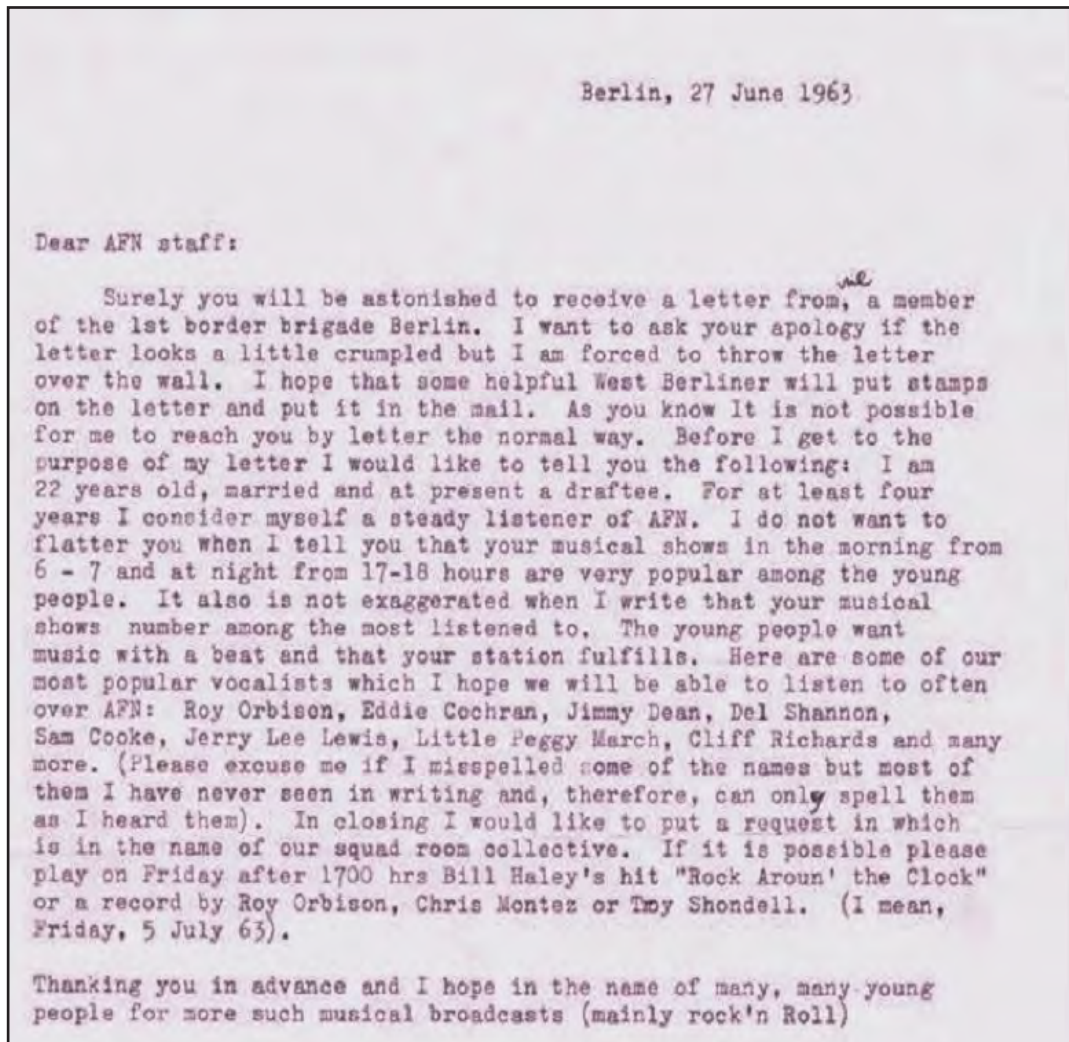
## East Berliner soldier sends letter to AFN with request for rock 'n' roll

*from Eileen (Maloney) Ellis  
'68 (in Berlin for 7th grade  
in 1963)*

This letter was a new discovery for me. Never saw this before but found it so interesting. The original letter is below, with translation to the right. I have the original envelope, as well, addressed to "Radio AFN, Podbielskallee."

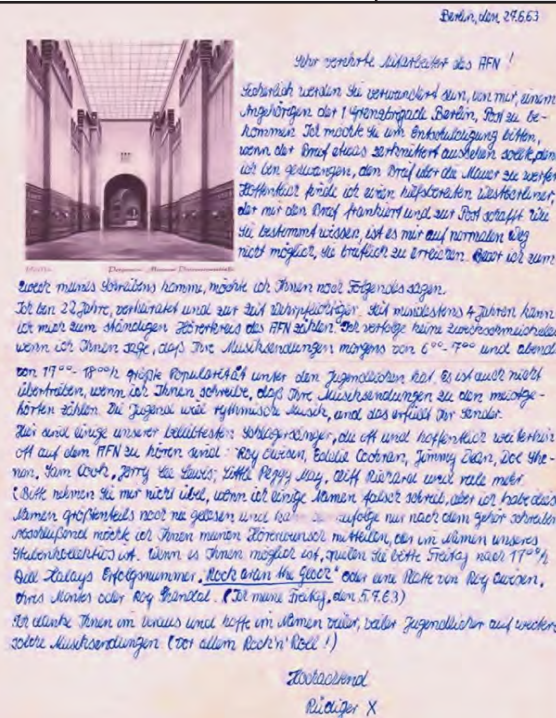
*Jim Branson '64 response:*

The letter is dated July 1963 and he says he's been listening for four years. I'd be willing to bet that during that period, he tuned into AFN Berlin on more than one occasion on a Wednesday evening at 5 pm to hear "Frolic at Five" during the summer of 1961, and heard Lee, Randy, and Jim on "the Teen Beat" instead. Some



Sincerely,

Ruediger X



of the artists he mentions were a big part of our programming for that once-a-week show that summer.

AFN was proud of the “shadow audience” of their host countries back in the years after the war and into the ‘80s and ‘90s. They were still vying for ratings from a ratings service against other local stations while they were broadcasting, and we did get numerous requests from Germans while we were doing the teen shows.

*from our History page on the website:*

One of the U.S.'s largest radio networks -- the Armed Forces Network (AFN) -- made its debut with broadcasting from a basement studio in London on July 4, 1943.



# Did You Know?

*by Nicole Glass, Editor of The Week*

Germans have a reputation for being clean, and here's something that backs up the stereotype: *Kehrwoche*. The German word *Kehrwoche* means "sweep week" and refers to the time period in which a resident of an apartment building is assigned to clean the common areas.

If you live in a German apartment building, you might wake up one day and find a sign on your door reading *Kehrwoche*. The sign indicates that it's your turn to clean the building. It's no fun, but every resident has to do it at one point or another. For the duration that the sign hangs outside your door, you are responsible for sweeping the stairways and taking care of the sidewalk at the entrance. Sometimes that even means raking leaves or shoveling snow.

*Kehrwoche* rules and regulations are usually described in the rental agreement. In some cases, there are two types of “sweep weeks”: the *Große Kehrwoche* (“large sweep week”) and the *Kleine Kehrwoche* (“small sweep week”). The larger one usually includes outdoor cleaning, such as snow shoveling, while the smaller one might only require sweeping the staircase inside the building.

Fortunately for some Germans, *Kehrwoche* does not exist in all parts of Germany; it is typically found in the southern state of Baden-Württemberg. During the Middle Ages, the city of Stuttgart, which was the capital of Württemberg, created a new law to try to keep the city cleaner. The law, which was founded in 1492, required residents to remove all dirt from sidewalks and street corners in front of their homes every 14 days. Back then, not everyone had a restroom, and citizens without one were also required to bring their waste to the stream. In multi-tenant buildings, *Kehrwoche* divided up the tasks between all residents. As a result of this law, streets and alleyways were generally kept clean.

Even in parts of Germany where the word *Kehrwoche*

is not familiar, however, tenants may still be required to help out with the cleaning. But if you're lucky, you might have a cleaning crew or a Hausmeister (apartment facilities manager) to take care of the dirty work for you.

*Kehrwoche* is still common in southern Germany, especially in the state of Baden-Württemberg. The term is for one week (the entire week) during which time you must keep everything clean, including shoveling any snow, or suffer the scorn and dirty looks of your beloved neighbors. Not performing your *Kehrwoche* duties isn't just considered antisocial, it's probably also a violation of your rental agreement since it's written into almost all rental agreements.

“My mother talked about having to do this all the time!” said Jeri (Polansky) Glass ‘72. “We did two tours in Germany, ‘57-’61 in Sembach and Darmstadt, and then ‘67-’71 in Berlin. My father was the ranking NCO of the building we lived in in Berlin, so stairwell ‘cleaning’ assignments were between all the apartments.”





# Hipster Berlin

by Melissa Shock  
*Stripes Europe*  
 May 07, 2018

There's more to being a hipster than black-rimmed glasses, ironic tattoos, and listening to bands no one has ever heard of. It's also being a leader of the latest cultural trends, having an appreciation for art and creativity, and budget traveling. In Germany's capital, considered a hipsters' mecca, there's nowhere better to travel like a hipster. (Tattoos not required.)

## GETTING THERE

*MeinFernbus* offers great fares around Germany. From many places, you can get to Berlin for 25 euros each way. A long bus ride at nine hours, but if you can spare a full day of travel, it's worth it. Games, books, snacks, naps and beer.

## WHERE TO STAY

Berlin has affordable accommodations throughout the city via hostels or Airbnb. For the true budget traveler, there's couch surfing, which offers you a free place to stay, and most of the time a knowledgeable local too!

The most popular neighborhoods in Berlin are: Mitte, which is considered the city center and is close to most popular monuments. Prenzlauer Berg is known for its organic restaurants, architectural design and outdoor parks. Charlottenberg is more of a family neighborhood with upscale restaurants and shopping. True hipsters will really enjoy Kreuzberg, which is notorious for its edgy collection of street art, eclectic cuisine, urban coffeehouses, and trendy bars. X-Berg, as the locals call it, offers a unique culture and style the hippest of the hip will love.

## WHAT TO DO

Berlin is full of free and almost free attractions, so pull on your plaid shirt, and lace up your chucks and get ready for some budget-friendly sites.

The most iconic landmark, the Brandenburg Gate is a must see as the symbol of German reunification. It also happens to be where Sandeman's Free Walking Tours begin. These walking tours are led by passionate locals around the city, showing you the most famous

sites while giving a rich history of Berlin. The tours are completely free, with the request of a tip at the end. While on the tour, you will walk through the harrowing Memorial to the Murdered Jews, see the site of Hitler's former bunker, the TV tower, the Gendarmen-market and the lavish Berliner Dom, an Italian Renaissance church. Walking the city allows you to dive into the culture and understand its turbulent past.

If you want a more urban tour of the city, Sandeman's also offers an Alternative Tour. This tour takes



you to the famous East Side Gallery, Berlin's memorial to freedom. The longest remaining section of the Berlin Wall is an open-air gallery where artists have decorated the wall with messages of peace. The tour dives into Berlin's vibrant street art scene, through urban nightlife districts and conflict zones, and allows you to understand Berlin's past controversy, gentrification, protests and riots.

The Reichstag, home to Germany's parliament, is a free attraction. If booked ahead of time (or hope for no-shows) you'll be escorted up an elevator to the rooftop terrace where you'll be greeted with phenomenal views of the city and an up-close look at the glass dome of the historical building.

The Topography of Terror is a free indoor and outdoor history museum and is the former site of the Gestapo and SS headquarters. The museum, which documents Nazi crimes, is one of the most visited places of

remembrance in Berlin.

Checkpoint Charlie was the best-known border crossing between East and West Germany during the Cold War days. There was much debate on whether it should be left in place, but it remains for its large historical and emotional resonance for Berliners and visitors. Avoid scammers charging to stamp your passport.

## WHAT TO EAT AND DRINK

Berlin is home to many food markets. One of the most famous, Kollwitzplatz market in Prenzlauer Berg offers organic butchers, sweets, clothes and specialty items like hand-made pasta, gourmet chocolates and homemade oils. The Turkish market is held along the canal in Kreuzberg and is perfect for sampling street food and perusing Turkish fabrics and clothing. Markthalle Neun is a foodie heaven every Thursday where creative dishes try to prove Berlin has more to offer than currywurst.

Bear Pit Karaoke has skyrocketed in popularity the last five years. Held every Sunday from spring to late fall in Mauerpark, you can watch the brave sing in front of thousands of people in the stone amphitheater. After karaoke, give your ear buds a rest and check out the flea market also located in Mauerpark. Find new and vintage fashions, souvenirs, antiques and knick knacks.

If you're interested in music that's a little more professional, musicians have organized Lunchkonzerte or lunchtime concerts. They feature musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic that play in the foyer of the hall for free. They're perfect for the music loving tourists looking to take a break from the sights. Waldbühne is a giant coliseum in the heart of the woods, making it one of Berlin's favorite open-air locations. Go here for concerts, movies and stargazing. For a true hipster experience, check out White Trash Fast Food. It's a den of burgers, booze, tattoos and bands. Delicious food, cheap drinks and amazing live music — they even feature lunchtime sets.

It's no secret that Berlin's nightlife is some of the best in the world. It has a reputation for parties, dancing and clubbing. In Berlin, you can find a club for almost any interest and budget. Hipsters in particular will dig Watergate, Magnet Club, Bi Nu and Lido, but you don't have to pay to dance. Dance for free in the U-Bahn (subway station)! While these subway dance parties happen all over town, the Schlesisches Tor in Kreuzberg is one of the most popular.

# Berlin's AquaDom

The largest cylindrical fish tank in the world is located nowhere near the ocean. This giant aquarium can actually be found in a hotel lobby in Berlin - and it's quite a sight to see!

The 82 ft tall AquaDom at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Berlin is home to nearly 2,600 fish of 56 different species. About 264,172 gallons of water fill the cylindrical tank in the hotel lobby.



The aquarium was constructed in 2004 at a cost of 13 million Euros. And upkeep is not cheap: back when the tank had only 1,500 fish, they required 18 lbs of fish food per day - and this number has surely risen.

In order to get a better 360° view of the fish in the AquaDom, visitors can take a transparent elevator up through the inside of the tank!

The Aquadom contains a number of creatures, including eagle rays, catfish and shark. Divers enter the tank several times a day to feed the variety of marine life.

There's no need to travel to the German coast to see marine life - a visit to this Berlin hotel will leave you amazed!







## From NOLA to Florida

A Koozie distributed by Nicole (Clayton) Hutchinson '92 at the NOLA Reunion in 2017 made its way to a Florida beach in April in the company of Larry Bentz '91.

**BRAT GET-TOGETHERS**

## Having fun in Coconut Creek



Had a blast from the '85 past ... Jim Hays '85 dropped in to San Antonio in April for a visit with Dan Franklin '85 after all these years. The San Fernando Church turns 300 this year.



Michael James '87, Natalie Wilson '86, and Steve Kinzie '87, unite 11 March, in Florida.

## Berlin memorabilia get new leases on life



Erin (Fitch) Nielson '90's mother saved her '85-'86 Bear-a-Cudas swim team sweatshirt. Here it is, getting a new lease on life with a next-generation swimmer.



Kelli (Proctor) Deister '79's 12-year-old granddaughter has found her BAHS letter jacket and adopted it. She thinks it's cool although she has not a clue as to the great significance of it, and our time there.



Sam McCuskey '71 found his letter jacket when cleaning out his parents' storage containers in Texas this spring. Look at that; it still fits! He also found his yearbook and another football letter.



# Famous WWII Remagen bridge towers up for sale

Combined from articles at warhistoryonline.com and Deutsche Welle (dw.com)

Buyers interested in WWII history and unafraid of rolling up their sleeves are in luck. German authorities are selling part of the destroyed Ludendorff Bridge.

## Bridge over the Rhine River

Securing the Ludendorff Bridge, undamaged, was a crucial strategic victory for the Allies in March 1945. It allowed more than 50,000 troops and vehicles to cross the vast Rhine River and thus turn their eyes towards Berlin.

Two towers on the eastern end of the bridge — immortalized by the 1969 US film “The Bridge at Remagen” — went on sale in May through the Federal Railway Property Fund (BEV). The bridge used to cross between the German towns of Remagen and Erpel, and the towers are on the Erpel side.

“There are already several interested parties,” BEV spokesman Jürgen Rothe told news agency dpa.

The towers will go to the highest bidder.

## Owning a piece of history

Allied forces had known that it would be difficult and costly to cross the Rhine River. Historically, the swift currents have stood as a natural barrier to those intending to invade the German heartland. As the Allies reached bridge after bridge, they watched the Germans blow them up before their eyes.

When an advance team saw the Ludendorff bridge was not only standing but there were trains still lined up to cross it, the Allies saw their chance.

Later, German soldiers would say that the bridge was scheduled for demolition at 4 pm. The Allies arrived at 3:50 pm.



The Ludendorff Bridge between 8 and 11 March 1945. Photo from the Bundesarchiv.

Surprised, the Germans attempted to detonate the charges, but many of the fuses were faulty and the few that actually exploded were not enough to bring the bridge down.

American troops swarmed the bridge and hurriedly began removing detonators, cutting wires, and hurling explosives into the river. By the time night arrived, hundreds of Allied vehicles were streaming over the only route across the Rhine, hastening the end for the Third Reich.

The honor for the first invader to reach the eastern shore of the Rhine since Napoleon went to Sgt. Alexander A. Drabik from Holland, Ohio.

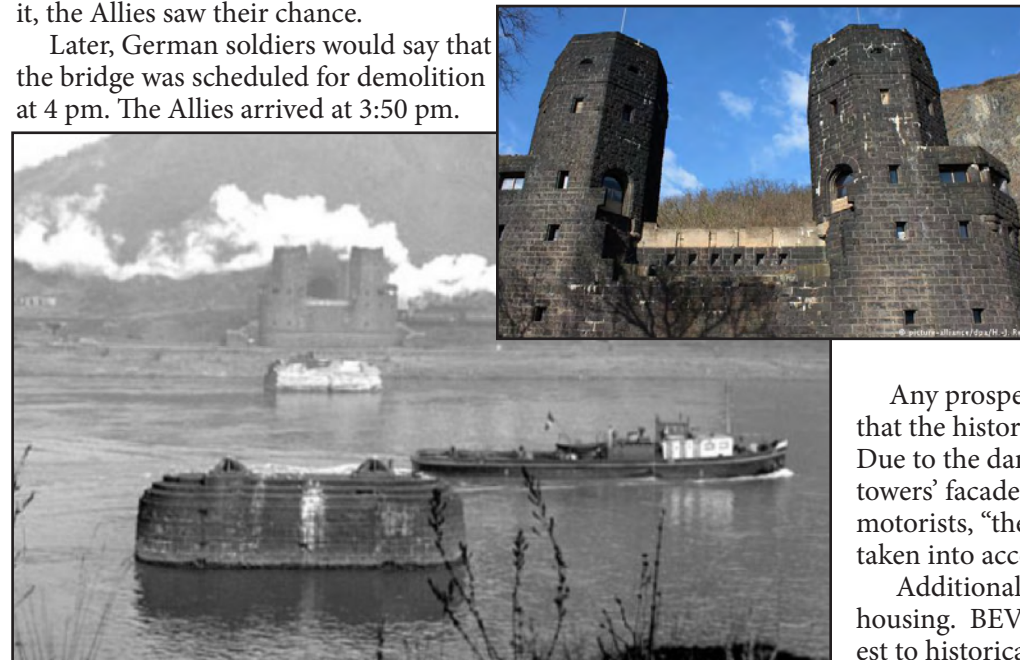
Hitler ordered a heavy assault on the bridge to prevent more Allied forces from crossing the Rhine. Bombs, artillery, and even V2 rockets were aimed at the bridge. The Allies brought the single largest concentration of anti-aircraft batteries in the entire war, just to protect this one bridge.

By the time the bridge collapsed ten days later, five divisions had crossed and the German plans for defense were in shambles.

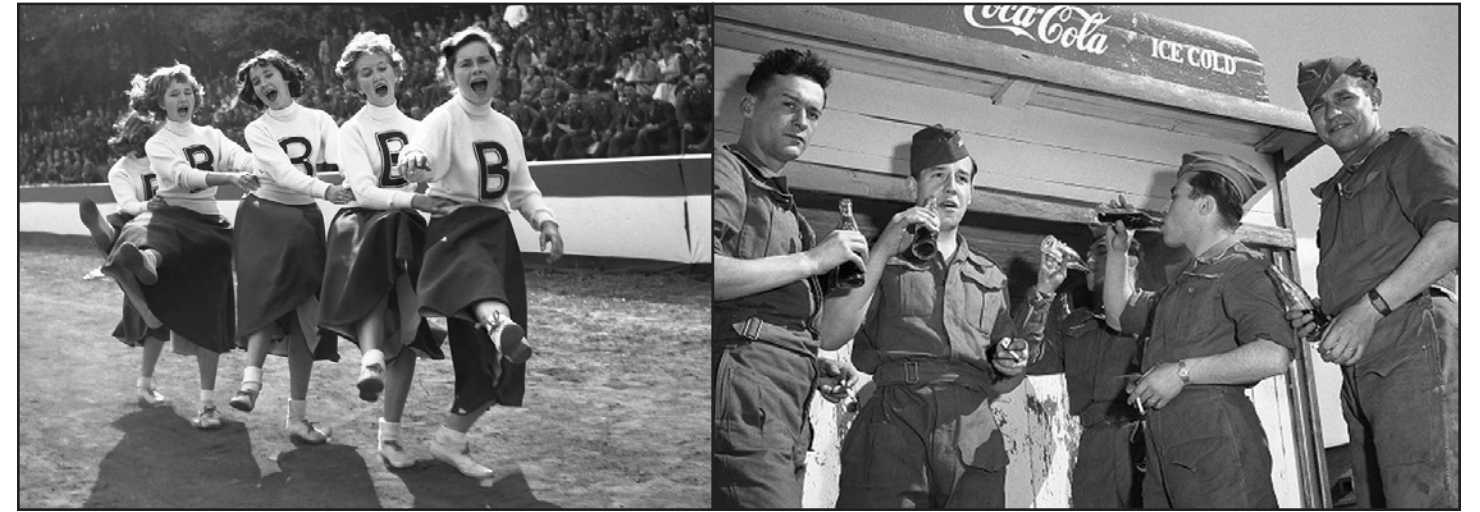
## Renovation required

Any prospective buyers are warned, however, that the historical ruins need some serious work. Due to the danger posed by falling bits of the towers' facade that could land on pedestrians or motorists, “the duty to ensure public safety must be taken into account,” the BEV listing added.

Additionally, the towers may not be used as housing. BEV expects the towers to be of interest to historical societies or artists. The towers on the Remagen side of the river currently house a museum.



The towers in the distance. The piers that had supported the Ludendorff Bridge were a navigation hazard and were removed in 1976. Inset photo of the Remagen-side towers. Photo from picture-alliance/dpa/H-J Rech.



Americans have been stationed in Germany since the end of the Second World War. Here they have led a life that has been largely independent from the Germans surrounding them. What has this life looked like? What has it meant for the American military personnel and their families to live and work in a parallel world? What has shaped their everyday lives?

The LITTLE AMERICA photo exhibition provides a rich impression of professional and also private everyday life in the closed American military community. Alongside training, maneuvers, and military technology, the complex infrastructure of shopping centers, schools, sports facilities, and GI clubs becomes visible. In addition, the photographs record the residential areas and shared lives of the US personnel, and also focus on their families. Individual images bear witness to encounters between Americans and Germans.

The approximately 200 photographs from the 1940s to the 1980s form part of the extensive photo collection of the technical historian Dr. John Provan (who just happens to be a K-town Brat '74), which the Allied Museum acquired in 2016. Largely taken on behalf of the military, the photos present an internal perspective on life at US locations. They were exclusively published in American military newspapers, which can also be viewed in the exhibition. At an interactive station, visitors can additionally experience the processes involved in photo production during that era.

Since most Germans were denied admission to the numerous American facilities, the photo exhibition offers a first look behind the fence into Little America, this difficult-to-access world of US personnel and their families. It illustrates what life in Germany – in their home away from home – meant to them.



# Little America; Life in the military community in Germany

*A new exhibit at the Allied Museum in Berlin*

*A photo exhibition beginning March 21, 2018*



## New: KaDeWe Hot Pink Taxis

**Discover #supera sia velotaxi and enjoy a free ride to #KaDeWe!**

Sia velo taxis are waiting for you.  
Anyone who discovers a velotaxi  
can go to #KaDeWe.

The hotspots are the Zoo Palace at  
the Zoo Station, the Siegessäule, the  
Kranzlereck and the Savignyplatz.

Enjoy the ride!

Wow..... Pink Supera Sia! The pink  
KaDeWe bag was already a focus for  
me; now the supera sia velo taxis are  
really a highlight!



## Upcoming Events

### Berlin Airlift 70th Anniversary

26 June 2018 - continuing  
throughout the year

### Charlotte, NC

Regional  
November, 2018  
date TBD

### 2020 REUNION

Seattle  
June 4-7, 2020

## Contact Information



### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road

Anthem, AZ 85086

telephone: 623•764•1105

email: [BerlinBrats@gmail.com](mailto:BerlinBrats@gmail.com)

website: [www.berlinbrats.org](http://www.berlinbrats.org)



Find us on Facebook @

**"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"**  
(the official fan page site)

**"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"**  
(an open group chat page)



follow us on Twitter @  
**@BerlinBrats**

Newsletter Brat: Kimberly Keravuori '85

### Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

[jbranson01@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranson01@hotmail.com)

for an invite

### American Overseas School Historical Society

Gayle Vaughn Wiles, President

email: [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org)

website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

### Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

email: [joeosbpres1955@gmail.com](mailto:joeosbpres1955@gmail.com)

website: [www.overseasbrats.com](http://www.overseasbrats.com)

### Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80

[pstein80@msn.com](mailto:pstein80@msn.com)

### WebBrat:

Carl Fenstermacher '73

[WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org](mailto:WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org)