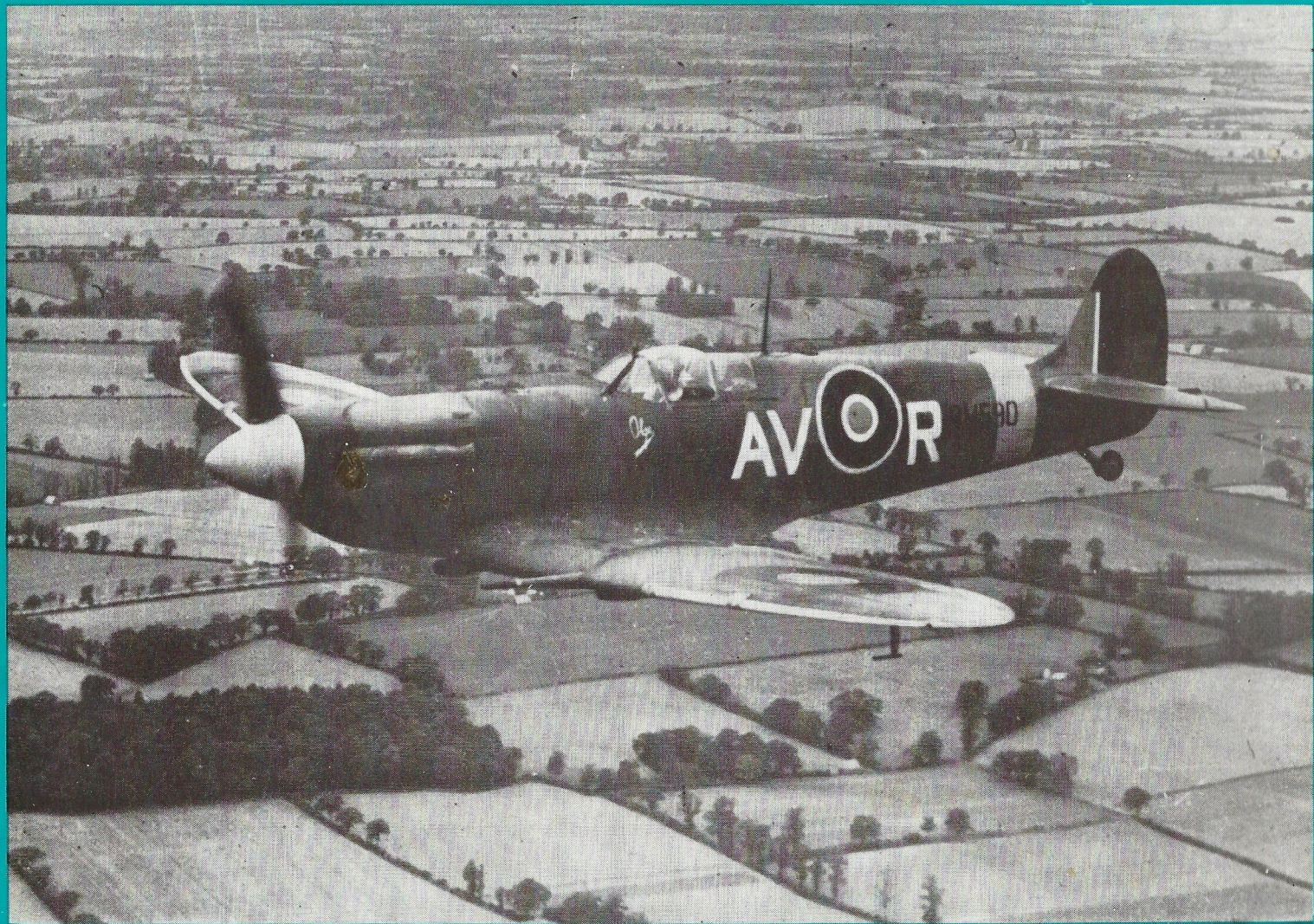


# The Rheindahlen Bulletin



No. 15

SEPTEMBER 1971

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# Editorial

Many of us will be returning to Rheindahlen this month after our holiday travels in various Continental countries. Perhaps these travels will have re-affirmed in our minds the fact that, despite national differences in traditions and customs, there is an underlying similarity in the needs of people everywhere — the need for peace, for friendship, and for opportunities to give our families a good and worthwhile life. September is in many ways the start of a new year, in spite of our Gregorian calendar insisting upon January 1st as New Year's Day; with holidays over, and a new school year beginning, it is a time when the outlines of our plans for the forthcoming year start to formulate. Possibly it is also a time for new resolutions?

We commend to you the article on the peace village, Friedensdorf, on page 2 of this issue. It provides thought-provoking reading, distressing in part, but encouraging proof of what one man's efforts to help others can achieve.

September is also a month in which the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund makes its special appeal for support. There is no need in the community here at Rheindahlen to re-emphasise the work done by this Society — but our front cover this month is of a Spitfire similar to those used in the Battle of Britain, and is, perhaps, a gentle reminder of the need to give generously.



Photograph  
by Army PR

Miss Jackie Smith in readiness to swim the first length of the Rheindahlen Youth Club's 24-hour sponsored marathon swim, in aid of their Guide Dog for the Blind Fund. Some 50 youngsters who took part swam a total of 1,444 lengths during the 24-hour period, each swimmer doing one length at a time, but swimming as often as he or she wished. Throughout the 24 hours volunteers from outside the club manned clicker boards marking off each length swum. Club leaders were on duty throughout, ensuring there was a continuous stream of swimmers and a constant supply of hot-dogs, soup, coffee and blankets during the night. To date, more than DM 2,200 has been collected from those members of the public who kindly sponsored the event, and this is not yet the total figure expected. Well done, Rheindahlen Youth Club!

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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MAGAZINE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 10TH SEPTEMBER FOR THE OCTOBER EDITION.** They should be sent to the Editor, Rheindahlen Bulletin, RAF Rheindahlen, BFPO 40.

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# Peace in Your Time

AKTION FRIEDENSDORF 1971

As you settle down into that fat-bottomed chair in front of the television, feet up, comfortable, a drink at your side, and with a kaleidoscope of disaster in some far-flung corner of the globe flashing across the screen in front of you, do you perhaps feel just the faintest twinge of remorse, perhaps just the smallest pang of compassion, a feeling, indeed a realisation, that you have so much and they have so little; in some cases nothing — not even hope.

If you do there's still hope for you. Can you still wiggle your toes? Your fingers? Can you stand the sight of your finely moulded features in the mirror as you shave or make-up, as the case may be, each day; for if you can you're lucky. You're so lucky that your good fortune can't be measured: it's astronomical!

Pastor Fritz Berghaus, a remarkable Lutheran cleric in his early forties, has since 1968 run AKTION FRIEDENSDORF, literally a Village of Peace, in Oberhausen, on the North Western tip of the Ruhr, in west Germany. The village gives help, hope and medication to critically injured and handicapped Vietnamese children, casualties of a far-off war, children broken in body and in many cases orphaned. Others are victims of polio he has rescued from war-torn Vietnam, condemned to a lifetime in a wheel-chair or to be imprisoned in irons from their shrunken waists to their wobbly, pitifully thin little ankles for years, if not permanently.

Some have been victims of mines and have had their legs blown off, others of hand grenades and have had their fingers blown off and their faces torn, others of napalm and have been hideously disfigured. And yet I saw no sign of abject collective misery. Some inherent stoicism or eastern fatalism perhaps, but so many — such as pretty little Nguyen phi Hong — she's ten years old and encased in irons from the waist down — whose expression of cheerful yet grim determination made me feel like a lazy useless slob.

But what of their future? To be returned eventually to an uncertain existence in Vietnam? To be adopted by an American family perhaps? Or to become integrated with Europe and be trained for a job in the secretarial field — in competition with other robustly able-bodied men and women. How would you rate their chances?

Others are less fortunate. By the terms of the contract, Pastor Berghaus has to be forced to sign with the Vietnamese authorities, all male children have to be repatriated as soon as they are cured; and remarkable cures are being effected — for many. Take little Nguyen van Doi, for example. He's ten and arrived last year paralysed from the waist down, quite unable to move his thin little legs. Today he runs about the village playing as all children do everywhere, though he looks as if a good puff of wind would blow him over — and his shirt and jeans hide from the eyes of the world the dreadfully knotted scars on his frail little body. Shall he, do you think, want to go back to Vietnam in a few years time to carry a gun. His contract says he must, at any rate, be repatriated when he is cured.

Frau Ann Lorensen is a sort of "Mother Superior" of this courageous, non-sectarian village of peace — a collection of split-

level buildings in modern idiom, on the edge of open country on the western outskirts of Oberhausen. She is a dedicated woman of Danish origin who has run the village from the beginning with Pastor Berghaus when little more than a set of plans and a hat full of hope existed. It was she who accompanied Berghaus to Vietnam to bring the children out and set to work on repairing their cruelly shattered bodies and numbed minds in an environment of loving care, which some of the children have never known before.

When I visited them recently with two members of the British Army we found half a dozen German soldiers there helping to clear some ground to make an additional play area. Two years ago British troops — men and women, a lot of them sappers — helped to dig ditches for drainage and other mundane building purposes. It was all voluntary.

Corporal Jenni Luxon, WRAC, and Lance Corporal Bob Payne, RCT, the two who went back with me to see the fruits of their earlier handiwork, were mildly surprised, I thought, to find how the original idea had crystallised and mushroomed. They said little but sat and played with the children, glad, I believe, to think they had helped to create something really worthwhile; but like me, probably appalled at the cruel hand of fate which had struck down these innocent young lives, and content to leave at the end of their visit counting their manifold blessings, complex though their own lives may have seemed to them before the visit began.

The Heimmutter — Housemother — responsible for the humanitarian side of the children's lives is a very capable Englishwoman, Angela Richards, an attractive brunette of medium height and vivacious nature, who told me she had been everything from a chambermaid to an air hostess, including several years in the Diplomatic Service. Angela, who speaks German fluently, is desperately keen to further the cause of the Peace Village and is planning a campaign to publicise its dedicated task.

Friedensdorf has a capacity for forty-five children, though at present there are only forty-six in residence. The remaining forty-four of the ninety under Pastor Berghaus's care are receiving expert medical treatment in hospitals throughout Germany at the expense of the German people. These ninety badly crippled, handicapped or seriously incapacitated children are directly under the good Pastor's care. He alone is responsible. It's a heavy load nobly yet willingly undertaken.

The village has a small staff of devoted helpers, old and young, who cook and clean and give an air of normality to what by any standards is a heartbreaking situation. So, if you're feeling tired, bored, fed up with life and can't think what to do, wiggle your toes and count your fingers as well as your blessings, and spare a thought for those courageous Vietnamese youngsters struggling through and triumphing over their cruel misfortune with a smile. Overcoming their dreadful burden — psychological as well as physical — takes a lot of guts, especially if you're only ten! — and more especially if you're ten thousand miles from your homeland — and from a home which may not exist any more.

John Adams

## Good Gardening in September

"The moon was bright: the air was free,  
And fruits and flowers together grow  
On many a shrub and many a tree."

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Truly this is the month of fruits and flowers: of misty mornings and warm afternoon sun: a lazy time when nothing any longer seems to hurry: a time of harvest, of gold and reddening leaves, of autumn flowers: a time when holidays are over, when preparations should be started for the coming winter and for spring.

September is similar to May in reverse, and although here in Rheindahlen the weather is often quite temperate, at the end of the month frosts may occur.

Some of the tasks to be carried out in the flower garden are: prune rambler roses early; take cuttings of roses and bedding plants; transplant seedling wallflowers, sweet williams and bedding plants; lift and store gladioli, dahlias, geraniums; bring pot grown chrysanthemums into the green house; plant bulbs (not tulips yet) of hyacinth (late), spring crocus, muscari and daffodil; clear away annuals which have finished flowering; construct new lawns, if required, and renovate old ones.

For lawns, grass seed is needed and should be sown while the soil is warm, after which germination may be expected within about three weeks. Grass seed in Germany is very expensive, but it will be on sale at the Garrison Nursery, also there, you should be able to purchase bulbs and bedding plants; cut flowers such as chrysanthemums and also pot plants, including chrysanthemums, will be available. The best time for transplanting trees and rose bushes is late September. Order your trees and bushes now.

In the vegetable garden it's really a time of harvest, but in addition you may: prune black currant and raspberries: remove diseased leaves from strawberry plants; plant out spring cabbage; cut down mint stalk and give a dressing of manure; protect (later part of month) cauliflowers and broccoli from frost. stalk and give a dressing of manure; protect (later part of month) cauliflowers and broccoli from frost.

As the weather gets colder, inspect the dahlias and if the foliage is discoloured the tubers should be lifted. Cut down the growth to within six inches of the ground, lift tubers, remove soil and label them. To prevent the tubers from rotting, place them stalk downwards on a shelf so that the sap will drain away; when dry, pack with stalks upwards and store in boxes in the cellar.

As regards gladioli, these are better left where they are until November, but if the ground is needed you may lift them now. Hang them in bundles to dry and let the leaves wither; remove the corms, put them in containers which are labelled with details, and store in a dry place. Cormlets can be used to increase your stock: sow in spring like peas, harvest them in the autumn and plant out again the following year when they will have reached flowering size.

Geraniums may be left outside until first frost, then they should be lifted. One method of storing and saving space is to cut them back, remove soil and pack them covered with peat in a deep box in a frost-proof airy shed. If you have not already done so, you may increase your stock by taking cuttings which should be maintained at about 45° F inside until March.

Finally, do not forget to order your winter logs (MG 58128). Until October, goodbye and good gardening.

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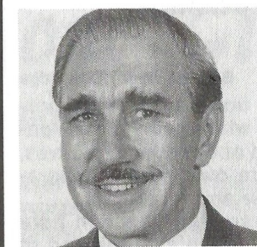
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# NAAFI NOTE BOOK



BY  
DOUGLAS McBIRNIE

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

I am writing these notes with three weeks to go to the opening of the new foodhall at JHQ Rheindahlen but I have no hesitation in stating that the doors will open at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 1 September to provide you with your first look at the biggest Naafi shop in the world.

Everything is going according to plan, though there have been a number of last minute problems to overcome to meet the agreed dead-line, and both our own experts, shop staff, and the contractors have been working long hours to maintain the tight schedule.

Mr Roy Wilson, our chief works official, has been practically living on the job and the same could be said of Mr Peter Houlden, who heads the shop development team; Mr Andy Richardson, foodhall manager, has had to contend with the day-to-day problems of the existing shop while readying himself and his staff for the move to the new premises.

We have received tremendous co-operation from all concerned – the Service authorities, the FBA, DOE and our contractors and without this goodwill, a major project of this kind could not have been completed on time. It is hard to believe that only twelve months ago the new building was just a set of drawings.

In addition thanks and apologies must go to the nearby residents whose patience must have been strained during August as both night and week-end shifts were employed to finish the work on schedule.

## FINAL STAGE

The final stage in the move to the new shop was to transfer the refrigerated display units from the existing foodhall. This had to be done over the weekend to reduce the temporary closure of the shop to the minimum. The fact that Monday, 30 August was a Bank Holiday gave our team an extra day and by remaining closed on Tuesday 31 August we were able to complete the transfer of equipment and goods and open up in the new premises on 1 September.

Additional staff were drafted into the Buschof shop on Tuesday to cope with the extra customers. We circulated 5,600 customer information leaflets explaining what was happening and we urged Service communities located outside Rheindahlen to use the local Naafi shop rather than add to the congestion at Buschof on that one day.

## NEW CHECK-OUT SYSTEM

I described the new check-out system in last month's Naafi Notebook but for newcomers to the Rheindahlen scene and those who missed last month's issue of the "Bulletin", here is a brief recap. The Sweda operator sits at the far end of the check-out counter with an empty trolley at her side. The customer unloads the goods from her trolley onto the moving belt, which conveys the items to the cashier. The cashier punches up the amount for each item and places it in the empty trolley. The customer pushes forward her now empty trolley, pays the bill and wheels away the full trolley to a spacious packing area located away from the check-outs, leaving her empty trolley for the next customer. At the packing area customers will find ample supplies of packing materials including the large American supermarket type of paper sacks which we trust will obviate the need for unsightly empty cartons.

We have tried this new system out in our recently opened shop at Soest and have proved that properly used, this method will more than double the rate of flow through the check-outs and so cut down queuing time.

There are eleven new type checkouts, plus an Express checkout for six or less items, which will operate in the old way.

A vital factor is the ready availability of the trolleys which have been specially purchased and the removal of these from the shopping environment will bring the whole system to a grinding halt.

## ICE-CREAM KIOSK

As a temporary measure the ice-cream kiosk has been sited in the former order department at the front of the old building. However, family blocks of ice-cream in the full range of flavours are on sale in the foodhall. The existing returned bottles point adjacent to the original shop entrance will continue to operate for the time being.

## SETTLING IN TIME

We hope to have anticipated most problems but in a project of this size a settling in period is required before maximum efficiency can be reached. Your co-operation and understanding will be appreciated.



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## *Personality of the Month*



Photograph by Erich Sommer Army PR

Mr. Stan John Fleming, 46, Forstmeister of Rheindahlen Garrison, began his military career in the Polish Army in exile and finished it after serving 22 years in our own Royal Tank Regiment. At the age of 17 Mr. Fleming was sentenced to five years hard labour by the Russians for trying to escape from Russian occupied Poland. But he did escape eventually and made his way to Teheran, in Persia, where he linked up with the Polish Army and enlisted into their ranks.

With them he took part in the 1941 and 1942 North African Campaigns, went to an Officer Cadet Training Unit in England in 1943 and, as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Polish Armoured Division, landed in Normandy in 1944. He took part in the drive to free North-West Europe and was awarded the Croix de Guerre with star by the French.

Later, in 1950, he joined the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment as a private soldier, although he spent a great deal of his service away from his regiment on other interesting jobs. One of these was in Berlin where he was employed as an interpreter in Russian from 1951 to 1955.

In 1955 Stan came to Rheindahlen and — though he didn't know it at the time — was to remain here in various jobs until finally leaving the Army in July 1969.

Stan, picturesquely dressed in his Forstmeister's uniform of green, now spends most of his time keeping the serried ranks of Rheindahlen's disorderly trees in order. He "terminated the engagement" of 147 of them last year — they were overlooking married quarters too closely! — and he has the names and numbers of quite a lot more who will get the chop this coming winter. Meanwhile he tends the many floral beds throughout the Garrison.

He lives in Bedford Road at the western end of Rheindahlen Garrison with his wife Irmgard and his sons, Billy, 16, who is at Queens School, and Christopher, 10, who is at St. George's School.



# Philatelic News

## UNITED KINGDOM ISSUES

The following British Architecture Series are to be on sale on 22nd September:

Modern University Buildings	—	3p
Aberystwyth University College	—	5p
University of Southampton	—	7½p
University of Leicester	—	9p
University of Essex	—	9p

## DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST ISSUES

A special commemorative 10 pf postage stamp is to be issued on 3rd September to mark the 650th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri (1265–1321). The first day cancellation will be carried out by the Post Office 53 Bonn 1.

A special 20 pf postage stamp 'Goslar' is to continue the succession of issues with pictures of well-known German tourist centres. The motif of the stamp is an overall picture of the town of Goslar with the Kaiserpfalz and mountains of the Harz in the background. The first day cancellation will be carried out by the Post Offices 53 Bonn 1 and 338 Goslar.

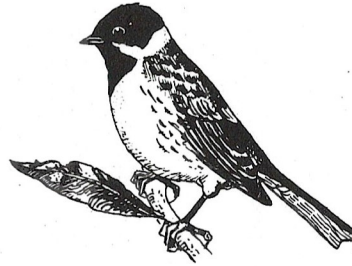
## EXHIBITIONS — INTERNATIONAL — ASSINDIA '71

Venue — Essen Gruga Halle (2). 11/12 September — to commemorate the Joint Ruhr Philatelic Society's 25th Anniversary.  
Opening Times — 1000–1800 hrs.

## Bird Spotter

### Reed Bunting

(*emberiza schoeniclus*)



Resident, summer and winter visitor on all types of marshy and boggy ground with thick vegetation; in winter often in agricultural land. Description: 6 inches. Sexes differ, in winter male's head

becomes much duller. Females and young males have strongly streaked brown head markings. Both sexes have prominent white outer tail feathers. Calls a drawn-out zeeep and a shorter metallic note. Song a simple chee chee chee chihitty, with varying emphasis. Habits: usually seen clinging to a reed or similar plant; seldom visible on ground and reluctant to fly far, but makes short bobbing flights from perch to perch.

An official Forces Postal Service Souvenir cover is to be available bearing the arms of Sunderland and Essen. The General Anniversaries British Legion 3p postage stamp and "ASSINDIA '71" cachet is to be used for this major event. In addition the Bundespost will have a full display and all the German agents and philatelic clubs will be exhibiting. The Halle is adjacent to the vast Grugapark which has every kind of amusement for the family.

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## ADVENTURE ON A CARIBBEAN NIGHT



The five finalists in the "best-dressed lady" competition held during a "Caribbean Night" at the USOC in July were (from left to right): Yvonne Bassett, Leslie Willis, Jackie Overton, Fanny Glydon and Katie Cole.

The judges were faced with a difficult task in selecting the winner but Major Brian Toy put his reputation at stake and nominated Mrs Jackie Overton (centre) wife of Captain Donald Overton, 13 Signals Regiment. Luckily his decision was a popular one and he was allowed to remain for the rest of the evening.

The "Caribbean Night" was organised by Seagrams, the distillery company, who suggested a "beach-comber" dinner and some unusual cocktails based on Ronrico white rum. Perhaps it was the cocktails which made a limbo competition such a great success. The winner of the limbo competition was Miss Yvonne Bassett (far left) who was left with little competition when Major Toy insisted that knees rather than heads went under the bar first!

Seagrams hope to run another "Caribbean Night" later in the year: this time at a junior ranks' or airmen's club.

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## NO SITTING DUCKS FOR JO CAREY

This attractive bird's eye view of 21-year old blonde Jo Carey would scare the life out of our feathered friends.

Jo, who came second in last year's National Ladies Open Sporting Championship, is determined to win this year's "open" at the Game Fair, Stowe School. This is why she interrupted her tour of Naafi shops in Germany to practise at the Joint Services skeet shooting grounds at Rheindahlen.

Jo caused quite a stir when she arrived in a 125 mph gold Capri 2000 – the first prize in a current Players No 6 competition – but soon proved that it wasn't "just a pretty face" as she blasted away at some pigeons with a borrowed shot gun.

# RHEINDAHLEN

Not surprisingly, Jo's deadly accuracy with her William Powell side-by-side 12 bore shot gun and her 35, 24, 35 figure led cartridge manufacturers Eley Kynoch to nominate her "Miss Clay Shooting" – a suitable successor for Annie Oakley!

The photograph shows Jo Carey with Lt-Col (Retd) S. S. Ogilvie, the president and founder of the Rheindahlen Gun Club. Telephone RA 2425 for your first lesson.



Photograph by J. Miller-Kelly

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## GURKHA WELFARE APPEAL

The Gurkha Welfare Appeal Organiser in Germany thanks all those who bought items in aid of the Appeal in the recent sale in the Rheindahlen NAAFI and those who so generously contributed. The total amount raised from the collecting tins alone was DM 171.56.

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## RAF WIVES CLUB

Did you know there is a Wives Club in Rheindahlen? We meet every other Monday at 8 p.m. in the RAF Sports and Social Pavilion – a super club house with all mod cons!

The Bus collects members outside St. Andrews School at 19.50 hrs. and at St. Christopher's School at 19.55; and it returns at about 22.30 hrs.

Talks and demonstrations vary from wigs to welfare – refreshments are made on the spot, and the evening usually ends with a game or two of Bingo – there's always a snowball going and raffle prizes to be won.

# ROUNDAABOUT

Our Autumn Sessions start Monday 6th September with a talk on Crime Prevention given by one of the P and SS Headquarters Staff – always easy to listen to and helpful.

Monday 20th September Miss De'ath, the SSAFA Welfare Officer will give us a short talk about her job – how SSAFA operates and can help us, and, very important, how we can help SSAFA – and I don't mean just a donation. The Dutch Tourist Board will then be offering information on places to see and go to in Holland. Pictures and brochures will be available to take home and show your husbands.

So come to the RAF Wives Club and be entertained and meet new friends.

---

## FAREWELL TO TEACHER



This month sees the departure of one of the most popular and enthusiastic Kindergarten teachers from Rheindahlen. Mrs Christine Gillespie, wife of Captain Jimmie Gillespie of Engineer Branch HQ BAOR, has run a children's school in her home during the whole of her stay here and has become well known throughout the Garrison.

To mark her departure she was presented with a gift by some of her children. So – good bye Christine – lots of love from Sharon Alexander, Clare Burrows, Nicole Emery, Jan Graham, Rosaleen Harte, Bernd Kuhlen, Philippa Thomas, Maureen Walker, Ian Wilcock and Jane and Sarah Williamson.

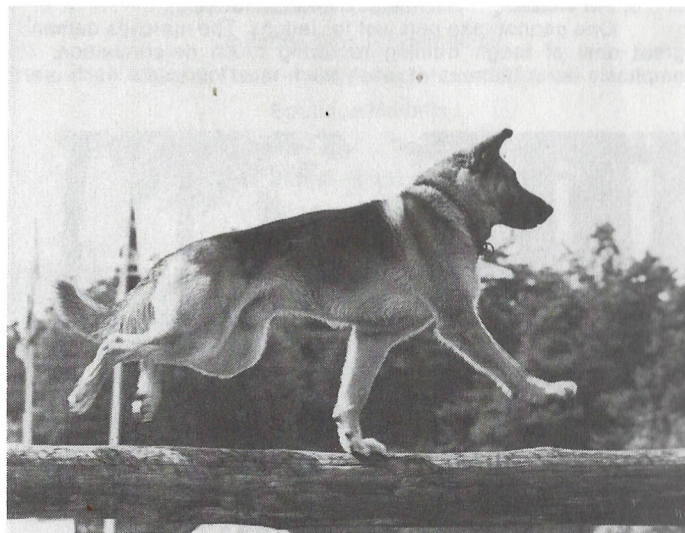
## WELCOME TO RHEINDAHLEN

Welcome to Colonel Melvin H Johnsrud, Colonel Soucy's successor as Commanding Officer 514th USA Artillery Group. No newcomer to Germany, Colonel Johnsrud was previously assigned to the HQ at Rendsburg of Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland. For the past two years he has served in Washington DC. We hope his stay among us in Rheindahlen will be a happy one for him.

Photograph by  
Oscar E. Porter



## FLYING HIGH!



Photograph by RAFG PR

Almost literally an 'air dog' – a competitor in Royal Air Force Germany's Police Dog Working Trials, which were held at Rheindahlen. The championship title was won by Cpl. Sayers and Air Dog Marcus from Gutersloh.

## The 55th International Four Day Marches

# NIJMEGEN, THE NETHERLANDS 1971

The Royal Netherlands League of Physical Culture held its 55th VIERDAAGSE — Four Day Marches — in and around NIJMEGEN from 20th to 23rd July 1971. The whole town was colourfully decorated and the thousands of spectators who watched the opening ceremonies saw not only the teams and individuals who were to take part in the marches but also the magnificent spectacle of a hundred military and civilian bands.

The Nijmegen marches have been an annual event since 1908, cancelled only during the two world wars, and show no sign of slackening. In fact, statistics show a steadily growing number of entrants each year.

The marches were opened formally in the Goffertstadion on the Monday evening, where the flags of the 26 participating nations were raised. There are now more than thirteen thousand marchers involved annually, from young military people and teenagers from all walks of life to the many hardy veterans who have been taking part for many years.

This formidable body of volunteers are prepared to accept the effort of four days of marching, covering from 160 to 200 Kilometres. A few, regrettably, fall by the wayside but the grand march past at the end of the four days march, which formally signifies the end of the Vierdaagse, still takes over four hours.

One cannot take part just for laughs. The marches demand a great deal of tough training requiring much determination. The emphasis is on team spirit; each team must complete each march



**The 2 ATAF Team.** Photograph by NORTHAG.



**The Northag Team.** Photograph by NORTHAG.

every day, for if anyone drops out the whole team would be disqualified. So occasionally the spectators see an injured comrade being helped along while others carry his equipment — just to get him to the finishing line to take part another day!

Here is a real international event which has been taking place for over 50 years. Here you see members of many nations helping each other along in a spirit of friendly cooperation. For at Nijmegen there are no winners, no losers — the aim is to take part and complete the challenge in a spirit of steadfast endurance and open-handed cameraderie.

British contingents come mainly from the British Army of the Rhine or from the Royal Air Force, women's services included, as well as large contingents from the United Kingdom's CCFs, ACFs, junior soldiers, Girls Voluntary Corps and the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserves. They total about 1200 and show up well.

The NORTHAG and TWOATAF teams, young but experienced marchers who have taken part in the other similar but smaller marches in the Ardennes, in Luxemburg and at Rheindahlen this year, marching not under one national flag but together representing the four nations which form these Headquarters, have shown this same spirit which is so evident amongst the thousands of marchers at Nijmegen this year.

And of one thing we can be sure — in spite of the sweat and the heat and the aching feet — they will all be there next year too!

## Drinking Wine in Germany

Many regard the Rhine as a vast international highway; few realise that it nourishes one of the world's longest wineways.

This stretches from the shores of Lake Constance, where Seewein (Lake Wine) is copiously available for around 200 miles, to just south of Bonn, where vines suffer commercial defeat from chilly north-easterlies, unpropitious soils and inadequate sunshine.

As usual with vines, the most remarkable are those which have to fight hardest for survival — full but delicate wines from the Rheingau, flowery and fragrant ones from along the banks of Rivers Mosel (Moselle in France), Ruwer and Saar whose waters join the Rhine at Koblenz. These are great German wines.

Farther south, where nature is more indulgent, wines are fuller, heavier and sweeter with only a few exceptions like the steely, dry Stein wines of Franconia near the River Main.

Almost anywhere in Germany one finds agreeable carafe wines. These are usually wines from local vineyards, are unlikely to be more than about 18 months old and will be pleasantly grapey but may have an unnoticeable "greenness" hidden by the addition of sugar to the fermenting wine. Drink much of these and you get a stomach ache!

My advice is to spend that little extra and buy wines from Mosel, Rheingau and Rheinhessen which have had nothing added to affect either taste or strength: this is most often shown on labels and wine lists by the words naturwein (natural wine), naturrein (natural pure) or Auslese (from specially-selected grapes).

The best Mosels come from the Mittelmosel (middle Mosel) and particularly from Piesport, Brauneberg, Bernkastel, Wehlen, Lieser and Zeltingen. Each has several outstanding vineyards. Those of Himmelreich, Schlossberg, Sonnenuhr and Schwarzlay, all in Zeltingen, are especially delightful. These wines are drunk only a year or two old.

Rheingau wines are what we call Hocks, among those specially attractive to British tastes are Eltville, Keidrich, Hallgarten and Johannisberg. They are often at their fragrant best at about three years old.

Farther south and bigger still are the firm full wines of Rheinhessen. Nierstein and Oppenheim wines are always immensely popular — for a special occasion try those of Goldberg, Kreuz, or Krötenbrunnen; if you choose an Auslese it could well be magnificent over 10 years old.

## Know Your Traffic Law

When driving in Germany, a person to whom BFG regulations apply is to comply with the German traffic laws except as they are modified by international agreement.

(BAOR Standing Orders XXIII para 15, RAFG Standing Instructions No 12 para 15).

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## THE BRITISH KIEL YACHT CLUB

The British Forces in Germany, including civilians and dependants, have been making use of the excellent offshore sailing facilities available to them at Kiel, through the British Kiel Yacht Club, since shortly after the end of hostilities in 1945.

Bruno Spleith, the BKYC Harbourmaster, who has been with the Club since these early days will, without too much priming, tell how he was lined up in his POW Camp and asked if he had any sailing experience. Having been a Star helmsman in the 1936 Olympics he admitted a certain competence and was shortly being astonished by the sailing enthusiasm and occasional incompetence of the British serviceman.

Kiel has always been an important centre for offshore sailing in Germany. The German coast west of Denmark and the River Elbe are fringed with islands and shoals and are unsuitable cruising grounds, whereas the Kiel fiord provides a sheltered and attractive anchorage which is also a gateway to the wonderful waters of the Danish islands and North to the islands and lakes of Sweden and the fishing villages of Norway.

It was in Kiel and in the harbours along the coast that those enthusiastic British yachtsmen found the beginnings of an excellent fleet and very shortly this enthusiasm had the British Kiel Yacht Club under way. It has continued to prosper thanks to the Royal Engineers, who have provided many of the staff and to the generosity of the Nuffield Trust and Army Central Fund who have provided the funds which have enabled yachts to be replaced as this became necessary. The cost of the maintenance of the fleet and of the wages of the civilian employees have, however, been met

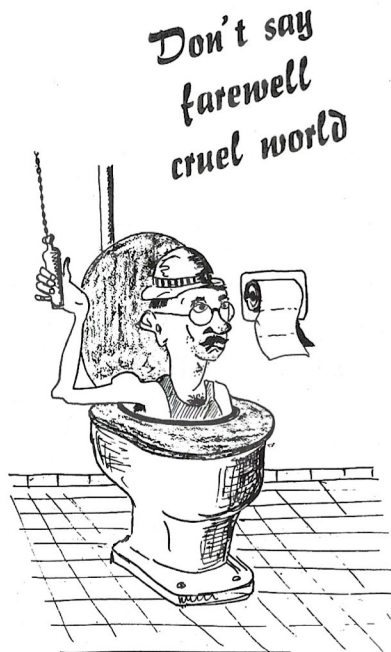
from Club funds whose income comes from subscriptions, charter fees and the very excellent bar in the Clubhouse at Kiel.

The Admiral of the Club is the C-in-C, BAOR and the President is the C-in-C, RAFG. Management of the Club, organisation of the sailing and management of the fleet is in the hands of a Committee whose Chairman is the Chief Engineer, BAOR, who is also Commodore of the Club. The other officers of the Club and Members of the Committee are nominated by HQ BAQR, HQ RAFG and the 1 (BR) Corps formations.

The pattern of sailing at Kiel which begins shortly after Easter and lasts late into September, includes sail training courses, adventurous training cruises and recreational, which includes family, sailing.

This year the pre-Olympics are being held in the Kiel fiord from 24 August to 3 September and the BKYC will be doing all it can to help the British crew to achieve maximum performance. It will be interesting to see how Bruno Spleith, Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire, Coach to the Federal Republic of Germany's Olympic Sailing Team, Harbourmaster of the British Kiel Yacht Club and one of Germany's current Sportsmen of the Year will cope with this problem. Those who know Bruno think they know, and they are sure that the British Team will not fare badly.

Anyone seeking further information concerning membership or the facilities offered by BKYC can do so by contacting either: The Secretary, Major G N Ritchie RE, Engineer Division, HQ NORTHAG, BFPO 40, Tel: Rhine Army 2671, or The Chief Instructor, Kiel Training Centre, BFPO 27, Tel: Kiel Civil 392744.



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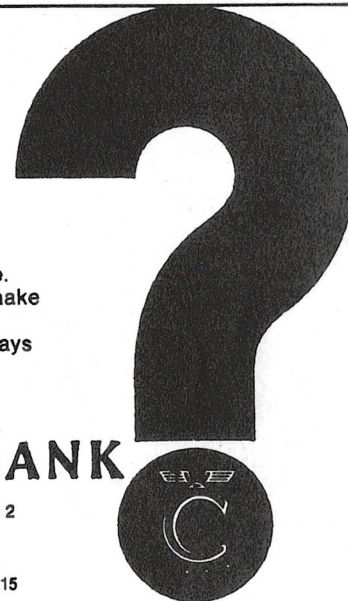
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## Collecting Decorations and Medals

This month I shall cover a few salient and, I hope, interesting points concerning the collection of decorations.

Medal reproduced by kind permission of Sgt J R Marley, MM, RGJ.

cost about twenty five shillings; it would now cost around £4.00. However, a bar to one of these MMs would add several pounds to the price. Since the MM was rather more sparingly awarded after WW I, their prices tend to be higher. A WW 2 MM could cost as much as £25. A peculiarity of decorations' prices is that those from the reign of King George V (mostly awarded during WW I) are cheapest to the collector. In order of cost the scale for these is something like: MM £4.50; MC £15.00; DCM £15.00; DSM £19.00; DSO £25.00; DSC £23.00. All the awards to the RFC/RAF are extremely expensive, ranging from the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (RAF), of which a WW 2 award costs around £500, to the DFC (55,000 awarded during WW 2) which fetches about £50.

As to the two top awards, military (VC) and civilian (GC); these are difficult to assess since much depends on a number of factors, such as Arm or Service of recipient, Regiment, rank, and the number awarded in a campaign in the case of the VC. £1000 is now probably the minimum. The GC has other factors affecting it, not least of which is: is it an exchange award (for the Empire Gallantry Medal which it replaced in 1940)? Probably £400 - £1000 is a fair estimate of it's value, according to circumstances.

Undoubtedly the cheapest decoration to buy is the World War One Military Medal, of which over 115,000 were awarded. The writer's own MM, purchased about twelve years ago,

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# MUSEUMS

The Dutch street scene is never quite complete without a barrel organ, that huge baroque contraption serving as a musical background to the bustle of city life. And for any significant part of Dutch life there is sure to be a museum on the subject. The Collection called From Music Box to Barrel Organ is housed in the lovely 16th century Saint Catherine's Convent in Utrecht. It shows the historical development of these hand-cranked mechanical instruments and includes hurdy-gurdies and a miniature steam merry-go-round.

The Clock Museum, also in Utrecht is an astonishing display of timepieces through the ages, from the tiniest gold and jewelled watches to table, wall and grandfather clocks.

The Franeker Planetarium in Friesland was once the home of Eise Eisinga, a simple woolcomber who, between 1775 and 1782, spent all his evening hours constructing a complete planetarium by candle-light. The planets and all the other then-known celestial bodies revolve against the ceiling, operated by a mechanism in the attic. Eisinga was no mere do-it-yourself man; the timing is still accurate to a fraction of a second.

From stars on the ceiling down to floor level: the Old Dutch Tile Museum at Otterlo near Arnhem has on view 3,000 glazed clay tiles, some dating back to the 14th century. Of particular interest are the ornate composite scenes, friezes and flower pieces, so beloved by the Dutch to decorate their homes.

Another memorable museum is the Clay Pipe Museum at Gouda. Chiefly known abroad for its cheese, Gouda has also long been the home of the clay pipe industry in Holland. The long white pipes on display in this building, which dates from 1617, come in an incredible variety of shapes and styles.

Still on the tobacco theme is The Netherlands Tobaccological Museum in an old patrician house in Amsterdam. Dutch tobacco manufacturer Theodorus Niemeijer of Groningen gave his collection to the museum. It includes pictures and objects demonstrating not only smoking habits in the Netherlands, but also the history of tobacco from the time of Columbus onwards.

Gourmets find Amsterdam's Pastry Museum to their taste. Besides a mouthwatering array of plaster-cast pastries and confectionary master-pieces throughout the ages, there is an old pastry kitchen, a confectioner's shop and a store window filled with the accessories and moulds.

And if today's pastries in Holland are still famous, so are Dutch liqueurs throughout the world. Where else but in Schiedam, home-town of the Dutch spirits industry, would there be a liqueur museum? The collection includes some 6,000 miniature bottles filled with perhaps every alcoholic drink known to the world.

There are many more interesting small museums in Holland. The Costume Museum at the Hague, for instance, which needs no further description. The Hague's Tax Museum has unusual exhibits relating to taxation and customs dating back to the Middle Ages, and an intriguing cellar exhibiting old smuggling tools and methods.



Being new to the district and not accustomed to having my deep penetrating thoughts (plagiarism as a rule) published in print, or indeed listened to anywhere, I decided to peruse the meditations of my more prolific colleagues. I would recommend a re-reading of "A Holiday Thought" in the July issue.

Religion is not an esoteric pastime, the hobby of a few harmless dogooders with plenty of time on their hands and not intelligent enough to put it to worthwhile use. Christians are convinced that to prevent our minds from meandering in the realm of phantasy, God factually intervened in human history and revealed something of himself, as witness Old Testament, and especially Christ, who clarified and expanded this revelation, enough to check the vagaries of our imagination, though not too much, to prevent supine intellectual stagnation.

Even a cursory reading of Christ's teaching makes clear that religion is a relationship, God-me-others, a family relationship, with God as Father. Love should therefore predominate. However there can be a problem — how to devote oneself to God and still fulfill other obvious obligations.

Some people solve this by going to Church on Sunday, and perhaps saying an occasional prayer during the week, what might be called a nodding acquaintance with the divinity. St. Paul, whose letters are a commentary on Christ's teaching, gave the answer ages ago, "whether you eat or sleep, whatever you do, do for the glory of God". Now if we make this not only a theology but a philosophy of life, there is no dichotomy, because we live our daily lives

in the presence and atmosphere of God. Our attitude towards others must of necessity be Christlike, because he has told us plainly that whatever we do to even the least of people we do to him—not much room left here for snobbishness or a sense of superiority. It means also that even the most boring of every day tasks assume a new dimension, they become God orientated. Apart from uniting us to God through Christ, this approach could help those of us who are inclined to be neurotic, or who are guilty of complaining there is nothing to do, because if literally everything is for God, no thing is trivial. It makes the daily cross a joyful cross. All our time is then God's, not just the odd moments we consciously enter into direct contact with him through prayer, hymn singing and formal worship. Life becomes a loving relationship through people, work and play, and ceases to be a system of legalistic rights and duties.

The Reverend J. Duffy

## ST. BONIFACE CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER

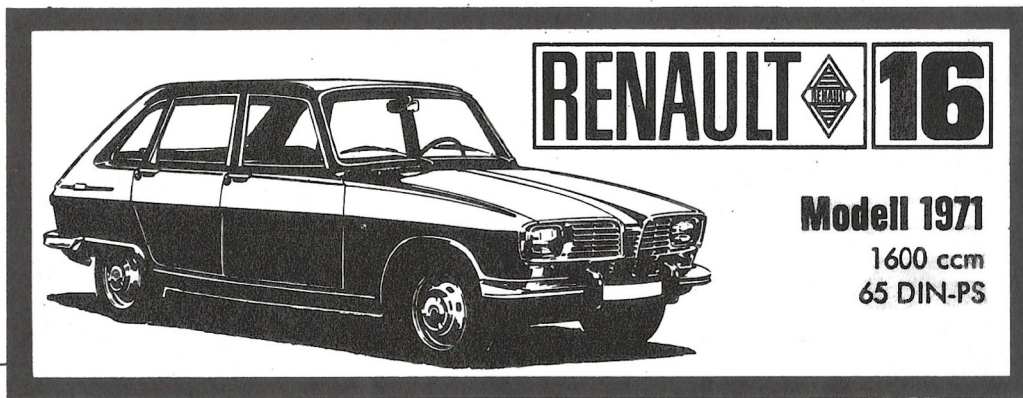
St. Boniface Church Annual Harvest Supper is to be held on Sunday, 3rd October in the United Services Officers Club at 7.45 for 8 p.m. Numbers must be limited, so you are advised to get your tickets without delay. They can be bought at DM 6 each, either from the Church Centre at JHQ or at the Church after Services from the beginning of September. All ranks and families are welcome (children over 16 years only).

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# SPORTS PAGE



Winners of the Garrison Evening Cricket League were the Casuals CC, who turned the tables on last year's winners, UK Element HQ NORTHAG. The Casuals' Captain, Mr. Steve Wilkes, received the Shield from the Garrison Commander.



A highlight of the HQ NORTHAG Swimming Gala was the obstacle race, in which competitors had to don shirts and trousers, drink beer, inflate a balloon, climb through a tyre in the water, and finally end up at the far end of the pool complete with all members of the team and their kit.

## SQUASH RACKETS IN RHEINDAHLEN

Squash Rackets is one of the growth sports in Great Britain and the reason for this is easy to find. Squash is independent of the weather, does not require complex arrangements as with a sport that involves a team and it offers a good deal of exercise in a short space of time. Forty minutes is enough to make the heart pump madly, stir up the liver and sweat out the poison of last night's over-indulgence. It is necessary to be careful though. If you are overweight, unused to exercise, generally unfit and have reached a certain age, then you need to play yourself in gradually: coronaries on court are frowned upon. The main thing is to find an opponent of your own standard.

Equipment is fairly cheap — £10 will clothe you from top to (white-soled!) toe and buy you a racket and a couple of balls into the bargain. It is not a sport for men only — where the men can get rid of pent-up aggression, the ladies can display their grace and lose that spare tyre.

In Rheindahlen we have three Squash Courts, attached to the USOC. They are for all ranks and can be booked by the receptionist in the foyer of the Club or can be reserved by telephone on 5/59361.

Children under ten may only use the courts if supervised by parents and because of the shortage of courts it is preferable for children of school age to use the courts during working hours.

During the season, which runs from September to April, many groups use the courts. In the evenings Garrison League Fixtures are played and during the day groups such as the Ladies Squash Club enjoy a few hours exercise.

Why not join in the fun?



The BAOR and RAFG Cricket Teams after their match at JHQ on 7th and 8th August.

Photograph by John Adams, Army PR

## RHEINDAHLEN FLOWER CLUB

The next meeting of the Flower Club will be on Wednesday 15th September in the Marlborough Club. A practical lesson featuring a dinner table arrangement is planned. Please bring some flowers and leaves, a low container, oasis, wire, pin-holder and flower scissors. All these, with the exception of the flowers and leaves can be purchased at the Club from 2.00 p.m. For true beginners Mrs. Trott will demonstrate at 2.30 p.m. The more advanced can practise their own ideas. The members of the committee will be on hand to give advice where required. We shall be pleased to welcome non-members. Children may be left in our crèche. Charges are: members free, non-members 2 DM, crèche 50 pfgs per child.

## CHURCH FETE

The St Georges Church, Moenchengladbach, Station Fete is to be held at Ayrshire Barracks Moenchengladbach on Saturday 11 September 1971. The Fete is to be opened by "Uncle Bill Mitchell of BFBS" and all proceeds are being donated to SSAFA and Bethesda Hospital Moenchengladbach.

There will be many attractions, including Areal displays, Side shows, produce stalls, go karts and sugar puff train. Refreshments will be on sale at very reasonable prices. If you are in the area, why not come along and spend an enjoyable afternoon, in support of two very worthwhile causes.

## ST. ANDREWS CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall of St. Andrews Church will be open on Saturday evenings from 2nd October at 1900 hrs. Records can be played, coffee will be available and young people from the age of 16 years will be made very welcome.

## D.O.E. WIVES CLUB

There will be a coffee morning in St. Andrew's Church Hall on Wednesday September 22nd at 10.15 a.m.

## INVITATION TO ALL LADIES OF THE RAF OFFICERS MESS

Do come to the Ladies Room at the Mess on Friday September 24th at 10.30 a.m. for Coffee and Sherry. This is the first Coffee Morning of the Autumn season and a very warm welcome awaits all old friends and especially new arrivals — for them it is a splendid opportunity to meet other wives — so — looking forward to seeing you there!

# STOP PRESS

## PART-TIME TEACHING OF GERMAN

From time to time vacancies occur in Primary Schools in Rheindahlen for the teaching of colloquial German. While qualified teachers are preferred, anyone interested should contact Mr. Sharp, St. David's School, RA 2142.

## RHEINDAHLEN JOINT SERVICES SKI SCHOOL

A full or part-time instructor is required for the Rheindahlen Joint Services Ski School. The applicant should be qualified to teach elementary and advanced skiing techniques on the dry ski slope and able to administer a large ski store. The period of employment would be October to March inclusive. Applications, giving details of qualification and experience, should be forwarded to the Physical Education Officer, RAF Rheindahlen (Ext 4287) or Major J.P.Q. Rowett (Ext 2252) as soon as possible.

## RHEINDAHLEN SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Our school runs on three mornings a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 0930-1130, with the help of a number of volunteers. Anyone who is interested in joining this team is invited to contact:

Mrs. Hammond, 16 Huntingdon Way, SW Extension or Mrs. McDonough, 8 Plymouth Way, SW extension or call at the school (Block 152 Queens Avenue) at 1130 at the close of school during term-time. Term begins on September 21st.

## DOG OWNERS

Following complaints of dogs soiling the areas in front of married quarters, dog owners should be aware of the German Law concerning dogs.

- a. Dogs are not allowed to soil public payements.
- b. Dogs must be on leads in public parks.
- c. Dogs are not allowed in cemeteries.
- d. Dogs must be under proper control on public roads and are not allowed on public roads at night.
- e. If you allow your dog to enter protected woods and game preserves off the lead, it is liable to be shot, as under German Law, keepers can shoot stray dogs on sight.

## THE SCOUT SHOP, RHEINDAHLEN

The Scout Shop has now moved from the Church Centre Rheindahlen to Room 12 of Building 35 at Garrison Headquarters Rheindahlen. Garrison HQ is in Collingwood road, between the Clothing NAAFI and the Garrison Nurseries — opposite the new chimney of the Boilerhouse West. A comprehensive range of Scouting clothing, equipment and literature is available and deficiencies in the range can normally be met within a short time. The shop is now open for personal callers from 09.30 to 11.30 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 1530 to 1730 hours on Wednesdays. Postal business is conducted on a large scale and orders can be placed in writing addressed to The Manageress, The Scout Shop, Garrison Headquarters, BFPO 40, and it is hoped that a "return of post" system will operate.

## EVENING CLASSES AT 34 AEC

Would intending students please note that enrolment dates are now as follows: Thursday & Friday 16th and 17th September, Monday & Tuesday 20th and 21st September. We hope that in addition to the classes already published, we shall be able to offer one in Metalwork and one in Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging). The evening has not yet been decided upon.

## RAF WIVES BADMINTON

Badminton for RAF Wives will commence in the RAF Gymnasium on Monday 13th September at 2 p.m. Please note the change in times.

Mondays 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Thursday 9.30 a.m. — 11.30 a.m.

All newcomers are very welcome.

## ST. ANDREW'S INFANT SCHOOL RHEINDAHLEN

Would parents living in the area served by St. Andrew's Infant School, please register their children for entry next term, i.e., commencing Tuesday, 7th September, 1971. Children must have their 5th birthday on or before 31st December, 1971. Registration can be made at the school or by telephoning RA 2344. There will also be someone in the office on Monday 6th September, between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, for registration. If coming personally, please bring your child's/children's birth certificate.

# CINEMA PROGRAMMES

## ASTRA CINEMA – SEPTEMBER

Performances at 18.00 and 20.30 hrs unless otherwise stated.

1	PAINT YOUR WAGON – Lee Marvin – NB at 19.00 hrs only	A
2	GOODBYE MR. CHIPS – Peter O'Toole, Petula Clark	U
3, 4	RIO LOBO – John Wayne, Jorge Rivers	U
5, 6	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES – Robert Stephens	A
7, 8	GANGSTER JUNGLE	
9	MONKEYS GO HOME – Maurice Chevalier, Dean Jones	U
10, 11	DIRTY DINGUS MAGEE – Frank Sinatra, George Kennedy	AA
12, 13	THEY CALL ME MISTER TIBBS – Sidney Poitier	AA
14	GOODBYE COLUMBUS – Richard Benjamin, Jack Klugmann	X
15, 16, 17,		
18, 19	BATTLE OF BRITAIN – Michael Caine, Kenneth More	U
20, 21	TAKE A GIRL LIKE YOU – Hayley Mills, Oliver Reed	X
22	OLD YELLER – Dorothy McGuire, Fess Parker	U
23	"Z" – Yves Montand, Irene Papas, Jean Louis Trintignant	A
24, 25	THE WORLD AT THEIR FEET – The 1970 World Cup Teams	U
26, 27	COUNTESS DRACULA – Ingrid Pitt, Nigel Green, Sandor Eles	X
28	BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID – Paul Newman	A
29	THE PASSWORD IS COURAGE – Dirk Bogarde, Alfred Lynch	U
30	THE LOST MAN – Sidney Poitier, Joanna Shimkus	A

## MATINEE

4	DAVID COPPERFIELD – Richard Attenborough, Cyril Cusack	U
18	SONS OF THUNDER – Guiliانا Gemma, Jacqueline Sassard	U
26	ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS – Disney Cartoon (14.30)	U

## GLOBE CINEMA – SEPTEMBER

Performances at 18.00 and 20.30 hrs unless otherwise stated.

1	THE HAPPY ENDING – Jean Simmons, John Forsythe	X
2	CACTUS FLOWER – Walter Matthau, Ingrid Bergman	A
3, 4	THE LOSERS – William Smith	X
5, 6	THE IPCRESS FILE – Michael Caine, Nigel Green	A
7	CHICAGO CHICAGO – Beau Bridges, Melina Mercouri	X
8	TODAY IT'S ME – TOMORROW YOU – Brett Halsey, Bud Spencer	X
9	CARRY ON CRUISING – Sidney James, Liz Frazer	U
10, 11	THE HORRORS OF FRANKENSTEIN – Ralph Bates	X
12, 13	BORN FREE – Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers	U
14, 15	THE MOLLY MAGUIRES – Sean Connery, Richard Harris	A
16	STILETTO – Alex Cord, Britt Ekland	X
17, 18	ASSAULT – Frank Finlay, Suzy Kendall	X
19, 20	55 DAYS AT PEKING – Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner Sunday at 14.30 and 19.00 hrs Monday at 19.00 hrs only	U
21	THE KREMLIN LETTER – Patrick O'Neal, Richard Boone	X
22	HEAVENS ABOVE – Peter Sellers, Eric Sykes	A
23	THE HUNTERS – Robert Mitchum, May Britt, Robert Wagner	A
24, 25	THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP – Peter Sellers, Goldie Hawn	X
26, 27	EL CID – Charlton Heston, Sophia Loren Sunday at 14.30 and 19.00 hrs Monday at 19.00 hrs only	U
28, 29	SEVENTEEN – Ole Soltoft, Ghita Norby	X
30	BARQUERO – Lee van Cleef, Warren Oates	X

## MATINEE

4	MONTE CARLO OR BUST – Tony Curtis (at 14.30 hrs)	U
11	FORT MASSACRE – Joel McCrea, Forrest Tucker	U
11	RUN WILD RUN FREE – John Mills, Sylvia Syms (14.30 hrs)	U
11	Children's Cinema Club at 10.30 hours	
18	ICE STATION ZEBRA – Rock Hudson (at 14.30 hrs)	U
25	CANADIAN PACIFIC – Randolph Scott, Jane Wyatt	U
25	Children's Cinema Club at 10.30 hours	

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