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A nostalgic moment for RAF Gütersloh as the CinC inspects the parade

End of RAF flying at Gütersloh

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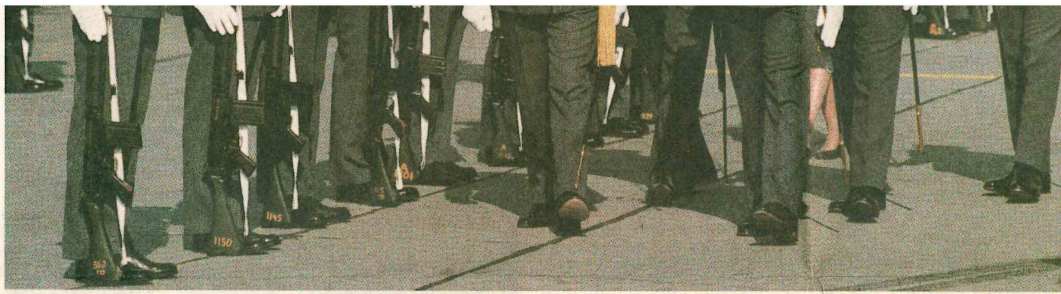
A Welcome Visitor



Here's LCpl 'Baggy' Barlow from C Coy Cheshires making a new friend in Bosnia. British soldiers pay regular visits to Orphanages and Mental Institutions with 'Feed The Children' aid.

PETE





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After 48 years as an RAF airfield, RAF Gütersloh has seen the departure of the last RAF aircraft. Air Marshal Sir Andrew Wilson, Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany, reviewed a ceremonial parade on 30 March before many of the aircraft types that had been based at Gütersloh flew out for the last time on a brilliantly sunny afternoon.

The Station was the home of RAF Germany's Harriers, Chi-

nooks and Pumas from 1977 until recently when they moved to RAF Laarbruch as part of the restructuring of the RAF under "Options for Change". Later this year, Gütersloh will be handed over to the British Army and will become the home for 3 logistic battalions and a helicopter regiment.

Air Marshal Wilson spoke of his sadness at the closure of this historic airfield, where aircraft first flew in 1935 when it was a Luftwaffe base. Personnel from the Station had been

involved in many operational detachments, including the Falklands and the Gulf, and could be proud to have been associated with the name of Gütersloh. He recalled the recent award of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for the Station's contribution to people in need, ranging from humanitarian assistance for the Kurds in Northern Iraq to support for local German charities, particularly the Gütersloh appeal for Rumanian orphans.

During the parade, the Station Commander, Group Captain Gavin Mackay, was presented with a Fahnenband by Major-General Manfred Würfel, Commander Wehrbereichskommando

III, to mark the contribution made by the Station to the success of NATO in keeping the peace in Europe during the last half century.

Amongst the spectators was Mr Tom Shutter, one of the first RAF pilots to arrive at Gütersloh at the end of World War II. Tom had flown to Germany from his home near Gloucester, specially to see the end of this era of RAF life. He said his fondest memory of the wartime RAF was the camaraderie. He thought that much of contemporary Gütersloh had not changed at all since 1945! More Photos page 2



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PETE BRISTO SHOT



Readers who watched the ITN Early Evening News on Monday would have seen dramatic footage of Staff Sergeant Pete Bristo, the Sixth Sense photographer who has been on Op Grapple since last October.

At 11.45am he was shot whilst photographing refugees crossing over at Turber from the Bosnian Serbian side. Snipers from both sides had opened fire and the bullet entered his helmet and exited from the back.

On the spot medical attention was given by the Dutch Army working for the United Nations and he was transported by ambulance to Vitez where he was immediately treated by the British Army Mobile surgical team.

Fortunately he is not seriously hurt and viewers heard him say "If it wasn't for the helmet I'd have been dead". Conscientious cameraman that he is he also made sure his kit was passed into the vehicle before he was driven away.

One of Pete's recent photographs is above and he now enjoys the dubious distinction of being the first casualty of the Royal Logistic Corps!



The first AGC SPS BAOR ski courses were held a few weeks ago and these pilot ski courses, each of 6 days duration, were run by Major John Wolsey with the aim of introducing AGC SPS personnel in BAOR to skiing and, at the

same time, establishing a template for AGC SPS BAOR skiing courses and ski meetings in the future.

A total of 42 members of the Corps from units all over Germany attended the courses, which were run from Sonthofen.

A civilian ski lodge, Haus am Brunnenbach managed by Mike Mumford, was selected as a base since vacancies on SNOW QUEEN courses were insufficient to allow the AGC SPS to attend "en masse". Skiing took place on Grasgehren, Ifen and

Successful start to AGC SPS skiing

Fellhorn in conditions more reminiscent of summer than winter. Nevertheless there was enough snow on the slopes to allow for 12 days good, continuous skiing.

The majority of the AGC SPS personnel who attended the courses were awarded BASI 3 Star awards, however WO2 Mark Gosling, Captain Chris Jewell and Corporal Jonah Jones gained BASI 4 Star awards - a creditable achievement indeed - it is hoped that the latter two individuals will be able to attend the BASI Ski Leader's Course in April.

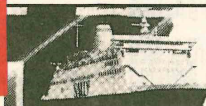
The courses proved to be an unqualified success in every respect and will be run again next year - hopefully on a much larger scale to cope for the greater numbers expected to attend. In the future, as expertise increases and the emphasis of the courses moves towards competitive skiing, it is hoped that the courses will become more self reliant, with the Corps providing both instructors and race officials.

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