BRITISH MILITARY TRAIN & BERLIN AIRLIFT 70th
Seven Night First Class moving celebration of seven decades of British Forces in Germany
MANCHESTER – BERLIN
11-18 June 2019
TIMETABLE & EVENTS
“AUF WIEDERSEHEN BAOR”
ABOUT THE BRITISH MILITARY TRAIN

WHAT WHY WHEN & HOW MUCH?

THE NARRATIVES

A MILITARY STAFF RIDE YOU CAN TAKE A LOVED ONE ON.

BRITISH FORCES in GERMANY – celebrating seven decades of friendship, on land, in the air, and in the community. The whole story from Bridge Too Far to the Fall of the Wall, and the million men and women who served in BAOR or RAF Germany.

CELEBRATING BRITISH MILITARY ENGINEERS & LOGISTICIANS for their response to Germany 1945-1949, *the worst man-made humanitarian crisis in modern European history* and how the Royal Engineers, Royal Logistic Corps and RAF Supply Branch created a first world Democracy from rubble and starvation, using old-fashioned British Make-Do-and-Mend. This unparalleled humanitarian effort ended in the Berlin Airlift and a return to German civil government.

TOMORROW’S LEADERS MEET THE HERITAGE – Carriage hosts provided by Officer Cadets from Manchester & Salford University Officer Training Unit and University of Manchester University Air Squadron. Some of these young people may, in due course, die for their country. Inspire them by your experience and be inspired by them. There is hope for the future and these Officer Cadets are it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF “WHEN I” As a Joint BAOR/RAF-Germany experience, the train is an unprecedented opportunity to travel with others who shared your experience, have a Cold war story to tell, and want to hear yours too.

CULTURAL ALERT If British military banter causes you discomfort or offence, this is probably going to be the wrong train for you.

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
HIGHLIGHTS VISITS & EVENTS

- Formal send-off by the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester
- “Bridge Too Far” Cocktail Reception at Airborne Museum Arnhem
- Visit to Wesel – the site of Operation Plunder or a visit to the lovingly recreated Squadron Bar at RAF Museum Laarbruch
- “Rebuilding The Ruhr” at Essen Zollverein UNESCO colliery
- Visit to “British In Westphalia” Exhibition in Herford.
- Three nights “Back to Barracks” (like Glastonbury but with more aviation fuel)
- Multi-faith multi-nation Service of Thanksgiving at the Montgomery Monument hosted by the Bundeswehr
- Day of German Armed Forces and Berlin Air Lift 70th flying show at Fliegerhorst Fassberg with 30 airworthy Dakotas,
- Remembering Major Ivan Hurst at the Volkswagen factory
- Cold War Corridor Convoy – train, cars and a Dakota from Checkpoint Alpha to Bravo and then to Charlottenburg.
- Formal Reception at the Reichstag.
- Day of British Garrison Open Doors in Berlin
- End-of-Train party in Spandau Zitadelle and Spandau Brewery.

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
Royal Engineers railwaymen, all from Longmoor Military Railway, had been running trains from the British Sector into Berlin since Autumn of 1945, and had got pretty good at it. But it all came to nought on 24 June 1948. This was the last duty – the cue they were not expecting to move anytime soon is the cover being positioned on the loco chimney. The railwaymen would soon find themselves redeployed, many running generators in the beleaguered city. They would never return to railway work in Berlin – as part of the 1949 Settlement that ended the blockade, the east German Railway would do it all.
FARES

“SERVED IN GERMANY” – DEFINITION & ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL FARE

“Served in Germany” fares are only available to serving and retired members (regular or Reserve) of British Forces in Germany, i.e BFG, BAOR, RAF-G, Royal Marines and Commonwealth attached units, their partners, nominated travelling companions and army/air force brats. Because of the emphasis in our narrative on engineers and logisticians 1945-1949, these fares also apply to ALL Royal Engineers, Royal Logistic Corps and forming corps, REME and RAF Logistic Branch. Members of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport UK and Institute of Railway Operators (or local Commonwealth equivalent) are also eligible. If you do not meet any of these criteria, you must be personally endorsed and accompanied by a passenger who does.

Fares below apply only to bookings made before 1 January 2019.

RHEINGOLD CLASS: £4750 pp based on 2 sharing
First Class Manchester to Berlin throughout, Full Dining on board, premium cabin and dinner on ferry, five-star hotel in Arnhem and 2 nights in the iconic 5 star Adlon Kempinsky in Berlin. Limited to 80 places.

FIRST CLASS: £2999 pp based on 2 sharing
First Class accommodation from Rotterdam, standard from Manchester to Harwich, 2 berth en-suite cabin, ad-hoc dining, 2 person accommodations at Fassberg, four-star hotels in Arnhem and Berlin.

“CHASE THE MILITARY TRAIN” CLASSIC CAR CORRIDOR CONVOY
£2199 per person based on 2 travelling in one car, sharing a room/cabin, and attending all events en route. (See Pages 3 and 9)

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS IN BERLIN AND RETURN TRAVEL BY AIR OR RAIL CAN BE ADDED. FOR HOW TO BOOK, AND ABTA FINANCIAL PROTECTION PLEASE SEE “ESSENTIAL BUMPH” BELOW

www.coldwareexpress.co.uk
TRAINS & ACCOMMODATION

THE BRITISH TRAIN
The first steam-hauled Continental Boat Train from Manchester for 50 years and the closest possible recreation of a 1950s troop train, hauled by Tornado – the only main line steam engine in the world that did not exist during the Cold War, but is 30% German. The boiler, without which it is not legally a steam engine, was built in 2008 in the former DDR.

THE NORTH SEA FERRY
Stena Hollandica – the biggest passenger vessel on the North Sea and exactly what happens when Swedish designers set out to build a floating gin palace and end up with a lot of light oak walls and brushed aluminium fittings. Overnight accommodation in en-suite cabins unlike old MV Empire Wansbeck

THE CONTINENTAL TRAIN
The legendary Rheingold train, making a very rare foray to Berlin. This is a train built for long distance touring, with plenty of bar cars and conversation spaces. And it really turns heads when it passes.

BACK TO BARRACKS AT FASSBERG AIR BASE
Think Glastonbury, but with Jet Fuel and engine noise instead of Class A drugs and “personalities”. Twin rooms, shared facilities. It is a real Luftwaffe barracks.

HOTELS IN ARNHEM & BERLIN, TRANSFERS & PORTERAGE
Transfers between stations and hotels are included. Luggage will be transferred by road and need not be taken on board or dragged to and from stations. We have done our best to take the pain out of the train.

MEALS
Buffet Breakfast daily on ferry or in hotels/barracks. Rheingold class; full at seat dining on board. First Class; dine as you please. All train menus are copied from or inspired by Royal Corps of Transport “Berliner” meals. Full bar service available whenever the train is moving. Dinner not included in Arnhem or on arrival night in Berlin, but both are big cities with multiple choices of dining. On days with a ludicrously early start, breakfast will also be available in the train.

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
DAY BY DAY SCHEDULE

**Tuesday 11 June THE FIRST STEAM HAULED TROOP TRAIN FOR 50 YEARS**

11.00 Luggage Check In at Manchester Piccadilly Station.
11.30 Formal send-off by Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester
*Passengers get to know each other and their Officer Cadet hosts.*
13.00 Derby pick up
16.00 Peterborough pick up
20.30 Arr. Harwich International for embarkation to ferry.
23.00 Stena Hollandica sails

**Wednesday 12 June THE BRIDGE TOO FAR**

06.30 – 07.30 Breakfast while the ship docks
07.30 Disembarkation and NL immigration control
08.30 Bus transfer to Rotterdam Schiedam Centrum Station.
10.00 BMT departs Rotterdam.
12.00 Nijmegen National Liberation Museum (or shopping).
14.00 Journey by train through the heart of Op Market Garden
14.30 Arr. Arnhem Station
Check In to hotels

17.00 “Bridge Too Far” Cocktails and private viewing of Airborne Museum
20.00 Bus transfer to Arnhem/Nijmegen hotels via John Frost Bridge
Evening: free time for dinner in Arnhem (not included).

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
Thursday 13 June  PLUNDER ACROSS THE RHINE AND REBUILDING THE RUHR

08.00 Dep. Arnhem CS
09.00 Emmerich set down for optional visit to RAF Museum Laarbruch – home to a Hunter, a Canberra, and a working 1970s Squadron Bar.
10.15 Arr. Wesel Rheinpromenade Bhf
Viewing site of OPERATION PLUNDER
12.00 Dep. Wesel, diesel locomotive V200 033.
13.00 Arr. Essen ZOLLVEREIN
Lunch and presentation about rehabilitating Ruhr Industry 1945-1949
“Building Democracy with bent nails and gaffer tape” by David Moore
Bus from RAF Museum Laarbruch rejoins main group.
14.30 Dep. Essen ZOLLVEREIN
16.00 Herford to visit the “British in Westphlia” exhibition
19.40 Arr. Bergen NATO railhead
“Welcome back” ceremony at Railhead with RBL Bergen Hohne and Berlin Patrol Car Convoy and bus transfer to Fassberg. First public appearance of Field Marshal Montgomery’s Rolls Royce staff car and BRIXMIS G-Wagen.

Evening: VIP Reception with Luftwaffe and Air Lift 70 Dakota crews

Friday 14 June  MONTGOMERY MONUMENT

Bus transfer to former RAF Lüneburg, Welcome by OC 3 Reconnaissance Training Regiment Bundeswehr, Bus transfer to Timeloburg. Montgomery Monument Service of Thanksgiving.

Dress Code: 500,000 American, British Canadian and German troops, mostly conscripts, died between D-Day and VE Day, formally the North West Europe Campaign of 1944-1945. Less formally but with equal respect, 25,000 tons of flesh bone and blood, so MAKE AN EFFORT please.

Free time at Lüneberg Town Festival or in RBL Bergen bar. Optional visit to Bergen-Belsen Memorial site, accompanied by Rabbi Walter Rothschild.

Evening: “More than just Candy Bombers”- A Mess Conversation led by Wing Commander (Ret’d) Dr Trever Stone, Hon. Historian, RAF Logistics Branch

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
Saturday 15 June DAY OF GERMAN ARMED FORCES & AIR LIFT 70

Day of German Armed Forces/Air Lift 70 event all day on Fassberg hosted by Transport Helicopter Regiment 10 and the Luftwaffe Technical Training School.

Flying displays, the biggest flight of airworthy Dakota in Europe since 1949, bratwurst, militaria & collectables stalls, and 40,000 visitors.

Note to Loggies Luftbruckmuseum Fassberg is the only museum that deals with the totality of the OP PLAIN FARE supply chain. 540,000 tons of coal was shipped from here to Berlin – the only time in history coal has been air freight.

Sunday 16 June VOLKSWAGEN CHECKPOINT ALPHA & CORRIDOR CONVOY

09.00 VW factory visit Remembering and honouring Major Ivan Hirst
13.00 Helmstedt to Berlin Cold War Corridor Blockade Convoy, combined entry to Berlin from Wannsee (Checkpoint Bravo) through the Grunewald.
19.30 Arr Berlin Charlottenburg Bhf
Bus transfer to hotels and
Evening: free time for dinner (not included in fare)

Monday 17 June BACK IN THE HAUPTSTADT DER DDR*

09.00 Welcome Back 1 Coffee & Cake reception at the Reichstag
10.00 Chelsea Pensioners parade through the Brandenburg Gate.
10.30 Welcome Back 2 Tea and Biscuits Reception at British Embassy (TBC)

12.00 British Zone tour departs Wilhelmstrasse for Gatow

Evening: End of Train Party in Spandau.

Tuesday 18 June THEY THINK IT’S ALL OVER...IT IS NOW
Endex. If you wish to stay longer in Berlin, Fred Holidays offer a portfolio of additional nights in the city. All times shown are approximate.

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
The Berlin Wall was not just on the surface – it penetrated below ground too. The sign attracting the man with a dog informed S-Bahn travellers that they risked arrest and imprisonment – if they fell asleep and drifted into the Soviet Sector. ‘Tell that to the young people today and they won’t believe you!’

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
CHASE THE MILITARY TRAIN

History has a habit of tripping over its own coat-tails. The combined blockade of the autobahn and railway into Berlin created the Air Lift and triggered the Cold War. No other road and rail closure has cast such a long shadow.

At home, Henry Royce, W O Bentley, and Arthur Peppercorn all started their professional lives in the Locomotive department of the Great Northern Railway. Two advanced into the world of rubber wheels, while Arthur stuck with what he knew, and eventually designed the A1 class locomotives. 60163 Tornado is a direct descendent of the Great Northern Railway.

Rendezvous at Harwich Port at 20.30 on 11 June 2019 to welcome Tornado’s arrival. Attend all the events listed on Page 3, and join a convoy of unadulterated British-ness through the Corridor from Checkpoint Alpha to Bravo, led by Montgomery’s Rolls-Royce staff car with the BRIXMIS G-Wagen as tail-gunner followed by a ceremonial drive through west Berlin.

Qualifying Vehicles: British Cold War classic head-turners built before German re-unification in 1993; here are the Technical Standards. Your vehicle must meet both tests;

Test 1: Can we imagine Leslie Phillips murmuring “Ding! Dong!” as he opens the passenger door for a lady. (Jaguar, Aston Martin, Stag, Bristol, Jensen etc) or James Robertson Justice or even George Smiley, being quintessentially British in it (Rolls, Bentley, Rover P5, Humber, Alvis, Riley etc)

AND

Test 2: You are happy to let 40,000 German visitors s drool over your car at Fassberg. Germans have a deeply embedded respect for fine engineering. A chamois leather (or Wet Wipes) might usefully be included in your tool box!

PARTICIPATION COST £2199 per person based on 2 travelling in one car and sharing a room/cabin. Includes attendance at all events en route. Additional passengers travelling in your car – price on application.

Authentic military vehicles may prefer to sign up to BERLIN PATROL
http://berlin-patrol.com/

www.coldwarexpress.co.uk
ESSENTIAL BUMPH

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

All bookings will be handled by Fred Holidays Ltd, ABTA No Y0128, ATOL No 0944, which affords you full bonded financial security. To see their Terms & Conditions please go to http://www.fred.travel/terms-and-conditions/

HOW TO BOOK

On-line at Fred Holidays Ltd website, http://www.fredholidays.co.uk/rail-holidays/

By phone 0800 988 5569 Mon-Fri 08.30 – 18.00, Sat 09/00 – 16.00, Sun 10.00 – 16.30

To discuss any aspect of the journey in more detail please call the Rail Team on 07941 569239 lines open daily 10.00 – 17.00 or email neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk

CONDITIONS http://www.fred.travel/terms-and-conditions/

NOT INCLUDED: Travel to Manchester. Dinner in Arnhem and on our arrival evening in Berlin. Return travel to UK.

THE ON BOARD SOUVENIR BOUTIQUE

We don’t have one. This train is an “Executive Gift” free zone. No branded teddy bears or cufflinks at all. Sorry. The only on-board shopping opportunity will be a British Forces Philatelic Services First Day Commemorative Cover. Luckily this will leave you with more money to support our nominated military charities. See Stand By To Be Mugged, below.

DATA PROTECTION & THE BUNDESPOLIZEI

For security purposes, we have to provide your details (name, DoB, Passport details) to the German Federal Police in order to get access to the Reichstag Reception. They like to know in advance who their guests are and if they are likely to detonate themselves while in there.
DRESS CODE

Smart casual, but for particular commemorations and events – Luneburg Thanksgiving, the Reichstag Reception, Gentlemen might usefully include a jacket and tie in their luggage. Teetering around in heels higher than 4 inches is a bit unsafe in a moving train or over airfields. Other sartorial suggestions cover baseball caps (only if you can correctly recite the first verse of Star Spangled Banner, or ALL of Happy Birthday Mr President. Men’s Shorts – fine if you were at El Alamein with Monty (or Rommel, come to that) otherwise not.

For “Back to Barracks” at Fassberg some respectable night attire might be useful. Decorations need not be worn except at the Thanksgiving Service Timeloberg. If you do choose to wear them, please ensure they were awarded to you personally.

A NOTE FOR TRAVELLERS WITH RESTRICTED MOBILITY/”EXCUSED BOOTS”

If you are confined to a wheelchair, and cannot stand or walk (DWP Personal Independence Payment full award) this trip is not going to go well for you. If you can stand, and with assistance climb three (quite high) steps into the train, walk to the nearest compartment, then we can look after you. If you have concerns, please talk to our rail team on 07941 569239. Our commitment to dignity and independent travel for all is delivered by burly young Officer Cadets, whose humour is ruthless, but they never leave anyone behind. If you are excused boots, for the longer walks/parades, such as Oosterbeek station to the Airborne Museum, and to/from stations to hotels, shuttle buses will be provided. Again, if in doubt, call us for a chat, on the number below.

WHY IS THIS BROCHURE SO DULL? NO PICTURES OR SEDUCTION ADJECTIVES?

Because you worked there. You know what it looks like. Travel agents love calling Berlin a “vibrant once-divided city” – well, you know that too. You are part of the million men and women who helped make sure it isn’t divided any more, and was not turned into a smouldering ashtray by a bucket of sunshine.

But if you prefer your travel brochures full of seductive words, here are three; unprecedented, unrepeatable, unique. It follows the Rise and fall of Communism from where it was invented (Manchester) to the Brandenburg Gate, where it died. It tells seven decades of modern history in seven days.

And it is the first truly historic ‘Grand Express Europeen’ to terminate in a German Brewery!
STAND BY TO BE MUGGED

The Nominated military charity that will be looking for your wallet during this train is **RMH CHELSEA/TAXI CHARITY FOR MILITARY VETERANS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is an unprecedented special train. It operates under the Military Patronage of Major-General David Burden, CB, CVO, CBE, founding Director of the Royal Logistic Corps, without whom it would not have been possible at all.

The Rail Team is led by Neil Howard who also directed the 1999 Kosovo Train for Life Humanitarian Aid train and 2012 Berliner tribute train. The ground operations are directed by Michael Notbohm of Berlin Patrol.

We also offer grateful thanks to the following who, by entering into the spirit, have helped make it all possible: A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, Airborne Museum Arnhem, Army Historical Branch-MoD, British Forces Germany HQ Bielefeld, British-German Association, 3 Reconnaissance Training Regiment Bundeswehr, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport UK(Defence Forum), Dampflok-Halberstadt e.V, Freundehries Eisenbahn Köln e.V, Luftwaffe Fassberg, MHM Luftwaffe Gatow, Marienborn (Checkpoint Alpha) Memorial Foundation, Museumseisenbahn Hamm e.V, Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands, Osthannoversche Eisenbahn AG, QARANC Association, Robin Gahn, Publisher Bahn Epoche, Royal British Legion – District of Germany and Berlin Branch, Royal Engineers Association, Royal Logistic Corps Association, RLC Museum, Ruhr Museum, Stoom Stichting Nederland, Rotterdam, the Burgermeister and officials of Stadt Bergen, Stadt Helmstedt, Stadt Lueneburg, Stiftung Zollverein/Ruhr Museum, University of Manchester & Salford Officer Training Unit, Volkswagen Group A.G. We are indebted to them all, but any Errors and Omissions are entirely our own.

Finally, this is exactly what your train will look like when it arrives at Bergen NATO Railhead:

![Image of train](image_url)

We look forward to welcoming you on board in Manchester, Derby, or Peterborough

**CONTACT THE RAIL TEAM** Tel 0044 (0) 7941 569239 [neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk](mailto:neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk)

[www.coldwarexpress.co.uk](http://www.coldwarexpress.co.uk)