

**Auf Wiedersehen, BAOR**



**The very last British Military Train**



**11-18 June 2019**

**From €3900**

€1000 discount if you served in Germany

From "A Bridge Too Far" to a "Funeral In Berlin" in the footsteps of Montgomery and the million men and women who served in British Army of the Rhine, BFG, and RAF Germany.

Berlin Airlift 70th Anniversary Celebration at Fliegerhorst Fassberg

**COMMEMORATIVE STEAM-HAULED DINING CAR TRAIN**

MANCHESTER - Sheffield - Peterborough - Harwich - Hoek van Holland - Utrecht - Arnhem - Wesel - Ruhr - Bergen - Fassberg - Lüneburg Heath - Helmstedt - Checkpoint Alpha - BERLIN



**COLD WAR EXPRESS**  
REVEALING THE SECRETS...

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# DEDICATION



**The Boss, as recorded by Sapper and official war artist Terence Cuneo (Royal Engineers).**

*Picture courtesy of UK Defence Academy, Shrivenham*

**This train is dedicated to specific and extraordinary people;**

**Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery – “the Boss” and first British Military Governor of post-war Germany**

**Air Commodore Rex Waite CB CBE, the unsung father of the Berlin Air Lift**

**Terence Cuneo CVO, OBE – Sapper and official War Artist to 21st Army**

**Everyone - British, Commonwealth, Polish, Norwegian and German - who served in or with 21<sup>st</sup> Army, the Air Lift, BAOR, BFG, and RAF Germany.**

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**The first Senior British Officer to be portrayed by Terence Cuneo was Field Marshal Montgomery. The last was Major-General David Burden, Founding Director, Royal Logistic Corps.**

Most Cuneo paintings contain his mouse “trademark”, and spotting it is an institution as British as Sunday Engineering Works on the railway. It is usually fiendishly difficult to find – but here, in his last formal commission for the British Army the mouse is a little more in-your-face. It was made to mark General Burden’s retirement as Founding Director of the Royal Logistic Corps. Photo by Lucy Taylor

Said General David *“I have this at home as it was my farewell gift from the Corps. It is a very proud possession. I love the whole train project idea having been much involved in BAOR , serving as a subaltern in Berlin regimental and staff jobs as a captain and major, commanding as a Lieutenant-Colonel and then finishing as a Brigadier for 3 years in HQ as ACOS G1, effectively head of personnel and administration for the CinC, covering the Status of Forces Agreement which was the legal document authorising the presence of the former occupying powers in Germany. The Hess death certificate was in my safe! I was there 1989-91 during the fall of the Berlin Wall, the departure of the GOC from Berlin and the Gulf War. I returned to Berlin to take the RLC Farewell to the City parade in 1994. The peaceful and successful existence of a “state within a state” is a great story, military, sociological, diplomatic and a major contribution with NATO allies to the end of the Cold War”.*

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# INTRODUCTION

## THE FIRST STEAM TRAIN FROM MANCHESTER TO BERLIN FOR FIFTY YEARS

A Steam-hauled Dining Car train following in the footsteps of Montgomery, 21<sup>st</sup> Army and BAOR using authentic rail kit from the 40s to the 70s marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, the 11-month fight for the Liberation of Western Europe, post-war reconstruction, winning the peace, and also: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of Allied Powers from Berlin and the final draw-down of British Forces Germany 30 years after the Berlin Wall fell. A totally immersive narrative begins with a “Bridge Too Far” and ends in “Downfall” and a “Funeral in Berlin”. In memory of the lamented “North Country Continental” Boat Train, the steam train starts in Manchester and ends one week – and 75 years – later in the former Hauptstadt. We end at the Reichstag, where in 1933 the whole story kicked off. Communism was born in Manchester – and died at the Brandenburg Gate

We remember why the British Army has been in Germany for almost 80 years - those who remain in foreign soil to this day 75 years after the long slog of Liberation: from D-Day to VE Day US forces lost 109,820 killed and British/ Canadian/Polish forces: 42,180 killed – 8000 tons of flesh and bone, and the best part of half a million injured before you look at the brutal cost to the civilians. We will party in Berlin because they, being dead, cannot. We will honour all war dead at the very spot of surrender.

We remember also the role critical played by British Army Of the Rhine in supporting democratisation and recovery of West Germany and its re-admission to the Human Race as a Federal Republic in 1949 and NATO member six years later. We salute the British Forces’ use of old-fashioned make-do-and mend to deal with the worst man-made humanitarian crisis – 30 million people and 400, 000,000 cubic yards of rubble.

And we celebrate the Berlin Air Lift 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – perhaps the greatest example of “humanitarian logistics” there has ever been – and much more than just a “Candy Bomber”.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ON BOARD THE LAST BRITISH MILITARY TRAIN.**

## DAY BY DAY – EVENTS TOURS COMMEMORATIONS & VISITS



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# DAY ONE : TROOP TRAINS AND TROOP SHIPS

## Manchester to Harwich

“North Country Continental/Farewell to Germany” boat train departs Manchester Piccadilly at lunchtime to Harwich for 23.00 Stena Hollandica sailing



*60163 Tornado, the only main line steam loco on the planet built since the end of the Cold War, will head the Auf Wiedersehen BAOR train from Manchester to Harwich*

### WHAT SORT OF EXPERIENCE IS THIS TRAIN?

60163 Tornado is not just magnificent – it is an Anglo-German baby and that matters. This train is fuelled by coal but driven by the narrative. It is not a traditional Battlefield Tour – although we will visit every key turning point from Arnhem to Berlin. It is not a steam rail tour – although some of the finest surviving steam locomotives from four nations (including the former East Germany) will haul it. We are certain this is the first train to travel (and tell the whole story) from crossing the Rhine to VE Day, the Cold War, and the fall of the Berlin Wall. What we have designed is a Military Staff Ride through 75 years of tumultuous contemporary history that you can take your loved one on, and which has better Gin. For fares, please see Page 12.

- OVERNIGHT IN MV Stena Hollandica with en-suite cabins

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# CROSSING THE NORTH SEA :

HARWICH – HOEK VAN HOLLAND – ROTTERDAM



Above – the Stena Hollandica. Left – the Empire Wansbeck, a notorious bucket that staggered on until 1961

MV Stena Hollandica, with her twin, Stena Britannica, are the most luxurious ferries ever operated from a UK port. Cabins are all en-suite and the ship is awash with bars and shops.



Standard 2 berth en suite inside cabin

From Hoek van Holland, coaches will transfer us to Rotterdam Station to join the British Military Train.

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# DAY TWO : “ENGINES OF WAR” AND A “BRIDGE TOO FAR”

## Rotterdam – Utrecht - Arnhem

Breakfast on the ship followed by disembarkation, EU border formalities, and transfer to Rotterdam to join the British Military Train to Utrecht and Arnhem.

Morning “Engines of War – Winning the peace” event and buffet lunch at Utrecht Railway Museum



*In 1945 when the Royal Engineers took over 6000 miles of German Railway, it was as broken as the rest of the country. Loco Longmoor (above) remains as the Dutch Memorial. Left, Driver George Newman MBE with his WD engine in Germany 1945*



OR Time free to explore Utrecht – Amsterdam without the drugs and derelicts. Escorted or explore independently.



*The Dom Tower – symbol of the City of Utrecht.*

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# AIRBORNE MUSEUM HARTENSTEIN : “A BRIDGE TOO FAR”

## EVENING RECEPTION AND EXCLUSIVE VIEWING AIRBORNE MUSEUM ARNHEM

Evening Sunset ceremony buffet dinner and cocktails at Airborne Museum, Arnhem. After the Museum visit buses will transfer you to your hotel via the John Frost Bridge – the 600m long bridge that in Sept 1944 proved “too far” for 7,600 Allied troops and 20,000 Dutch civilians.



● OVERNIGHT HOTEL BASE Arnhem

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## DAY THREE : Arnhem – Wesel – Essen - Bergen

AM: In the footsteps of Winston & Monty on the east bank of the Rhine at Wesel



*24 hours before Operation Plunder, Churchill and Montgomery set foot on Nazi held soil. Left – the same spot today*

Lunch at UNESCO listed Zollverein Coal Mine complex. Essen How the Royal Engineers kept the lights on in 1945...and the awful winter of 46 in Operation Coalscuttle

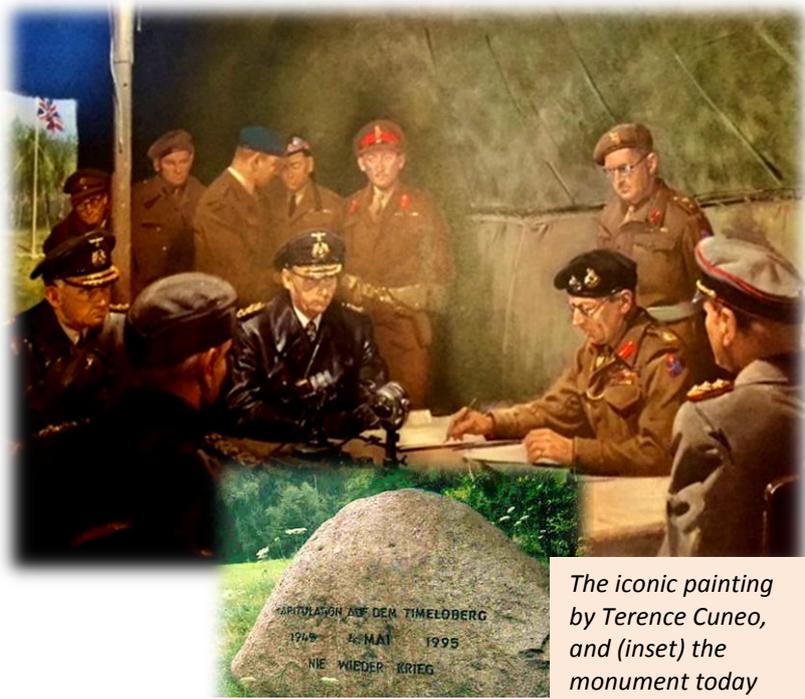
PM: Arrive Bergen NATO Railhead and transfer to Fliegerhorst Fassberg. See **Page 12** for accommodation information Evening “Welcome Back” party with Royal British Legion District of Germany and Royal Engineers Association Willich Branch.

● OVERNIGHT HOTEL BASE “Back to Barracks” at Fassberg as guests of the Luftwaffe

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## DAY FOUR : LÜNEBURG MONUMENT & BAOR LIVE OAK & LEGENDS



The iconic painting by Terence Cuneo, and (inset) the monument today

AM: Cross-forces multi-faith Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at the Site of Surrender on Timeloberg Lüneburg Heath Note: this service honours ALL war dead.

*(Like Tynham "Ghost" Village in Dorset, the Montgomery Monument is in the middle of a live training area, and is very rarely visited by anyone. We are grateful to 3 Reconnaissance Training Battalion, Bundeswehr, for their hospitality and good humour).*

ii) Day at Leisure in Lüneburg – a Hanseatic port town of subsidence, salt, two micro-breweries, the site of surrender at Timeloberg, and the house that was for SS Chief Himmler, arguably the Biggest Shit of the Third Reich, the end of his personal journey on 23 May 1945 while in the custody of the British Second Army Defence Company. Lord Haw Haw also passed through this house en route to meet Hangman Pierrepont in Wandsworth Prison. Debate about that famously suspended sentence rumbles on today. It is a private home now, but is mostly unchanged externally and oddly sinister.

OR

iv) Munster Tank Museum RAF Lüneburg (now Theodor Körner Kaserne) and Celle Garrison Museum. A Hop-on Hop-Off bus service will link Fassberg, Bergen, Celle, Lüneburg Town Festival, and RBL Bergen member's bar.

● OVERNIGHT HOTEL BASE: "Back to Barracks" Fassberg

Evening Pub Conversation: Dr Christopher Knowles *"The British in occupied Germany: Four British soldiers and administrators in Germany after the Second World War"*

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## DAY FIVE : LUFTWAFFE FASSBERG "Day of the Bundeswehr" and "Air Lift 70<sup>th</sup>"

Fliegerhorst Fassberg is the official Luftwaffe Air Lift Memorial, and home to the Technical Training School, holds a day of flying displays, . At least 3 airworthy Dakotas will be commemorating the Air Lift, plus this static one, the official Luftwaffe memorial plane. .



Above, the Fassberg Memorial Dakota. Left – a Christmas card from RAF Fassberg in 1948

Day of German Armed Forces is an extra-ordinary show. It attracts more than 100,000 visitors and is a heady mix of flying displays, live music, bratwurst, heavy armour, parachuting, specialist demonstrations, memorabilia stalls, more bratwurst.



● OVERNIGHT HOTEL BASE: "Back to Barracks" Fassberg

Evening Pub Conversation: Wing Commander Trevor Stone, Hon Historian RAF Supply Branch. *"The Air Lift – more than just "Candy Bombers"*.

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# DAY SIX : STEAMING TO HELMSTEDT AND BERLIN

## IT ISN'T OVER UNTIL THE FAT LADY HAS SUNG...

This very Ruben-esque ten-coupled tank engine – it is the second biggest working tank engine in the world - is being penned in for the last day from Bergen, via Helmstedt, to Berlin.



The technically-minded will notice that she has lots of wheels, but they are very small. This engineers out as very great power, but quite slow speed. 60 kph, which is modest for a passenger train. It is 300 kms from Bergen NATO railhead to Berlin via Helmstedt. We are expected at Helmstedt at 10.00, so that will be an 07.30 departure from barracks at Fassberg on 16 June 2019. There will be plenty of emergency coffee. The upside of little wheels is we have more time for the Potsdam Port Ritual, a BMT tradition, as we make a stately progress to Berlin, barely keeping pace with passing S-Bahn trains after Spandau.

There is an historic reason for this very early start and 18<sup>th</sup> century velocity. The Fat Lady normally lives and works at Blankenburg, in the Harz Mountains. In 1949 she was there when Germany split into East and West, and she has never worked a train in the west since. So there is a bit of “Flücht aus DDR” to this and to add even more emotion to the day, she will be despatched east from Helmstedt at 13.00, not by a man with a flag, which is how everyone else does train despatch, but by an Air Lift Dakota doing a low fly past over Helmstedt station. This is our very eclectic tribute to the Air Lift.

● OVERNIGHT HOTEL BASE : BERLIN

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# DAY SEVEN : A VERY BRITISH BERLIN

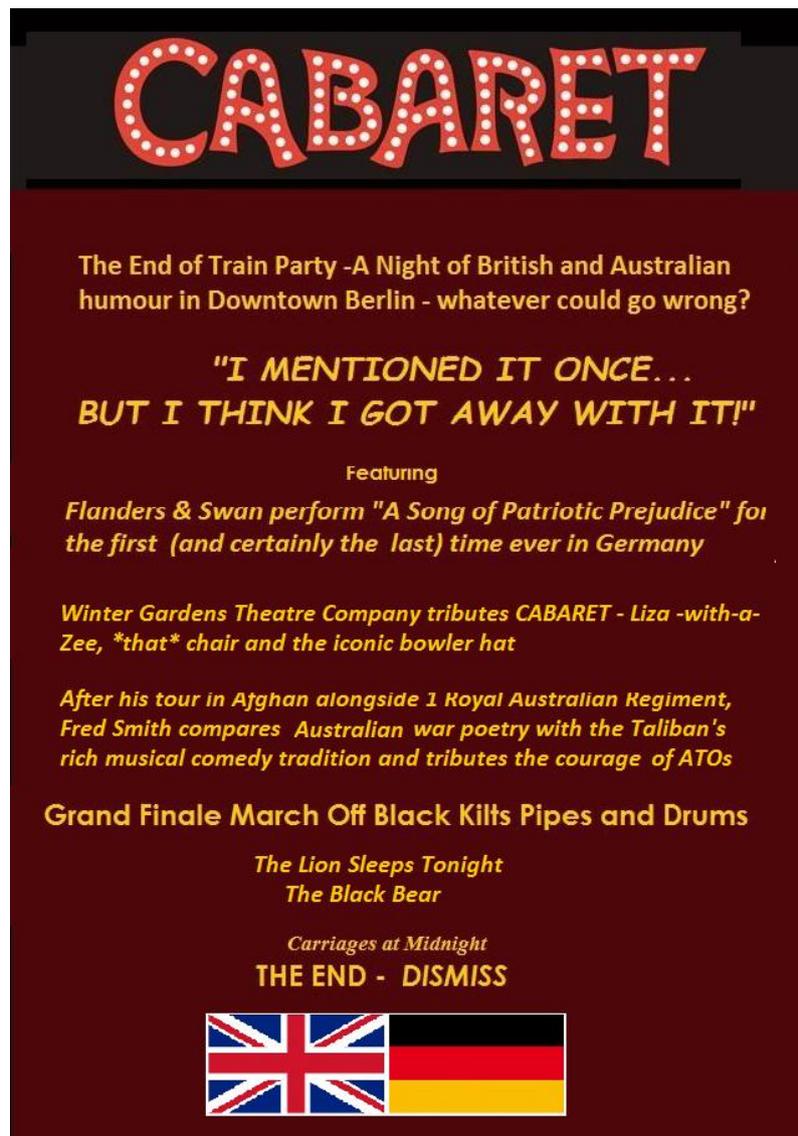
AM 09.00 Formal Political Reception at the Reichstag.

Day of Open British Doors with Berlin Patrol - : Allied Museum, Edinburgh House, Olympia Stadion and London Block, British Military Hospital, Military Cemetery, former barracks and the UK HQ where Operation Plainfare (the Air Lift) was planned. RAF Gatow.

OR

Soviet Museum Karlshorst and former Soviet Forces Germany HQ at Zossen

EVENING British & Commonwealth Gala/Mess Dinner and Entertainment "I mentioned it once but I think I got away with it". Starring Fred Smith, Flanders & Swan, and the Black Kilts



**CABARET**

The End of Train Party -A Night of British and Australian humour in Downtown Berlin - whatever could go wrong?

**"I MENTIONED IT ONCE...  
BUT I THINK I GOT AWAY WITH IT!"**

Featuring

*Flanders & Swan perform "A Song of Patriotic Prejudice" for the first (and certainly the last) time ever in Germany*

*Winter Gardens Theatre Company tributes CABARET - Liza -with-a-Zee, \*that\* chair and the iconic bowler hat*

*After his tour in Afghan alongside 1 Royal Australian Regiment, Fred Smith compares Australian war poetry with the Taliban's rich musical comedy tradition and tributes the courage of ATOs*

**Grand Finale March Off Black Kilts Pipes and Drums**

*The Lion Sleeps Tonight*  
*The Black Bear*

*Carriages at Midnight*  
**THE END - DISMISS**



● FINAL OVERNIGHT HOTEL : BERLIN

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# TOUR PRICES & RESERVATIONS

Rheingold. Premier dining, Comfort Class cabin on the Stena Hollandica, Five star city hotels where available.

First. Travel in authentic 1950s First Class carriages. Four star city accommodation.

Class	From Manchester	From London	Single sup	Cabaret Dinner
Rheingold	On request	On request		included
First	€3900	€3750	€500	included
BAOR /RAF – G*	On application	On application	€500	included

## RESERVATIONS, PRE-BOOKING & LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Formal bookings will open in Summer 2018, once we have reached full contractual and consumer regulatory compliance. If you wish to pre-register, please email with lead passenger name, number of places required, daytime telephone number, and whether you wish to travel from Manchester (steam) or London (scheduled train). We will invoice you for a 10% non-refundable deposit in September 2018, with the balance payable in March 2019.

It is a Condition of Carriage that you have valid travel insurance. If in doubt, you can buy it at a Post Office or on-line from them at <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-insurance>

\*If you served in BAOR, BFG or attached-BAOR Commonwealth Units, RAF-Germany, Berlin Infantry Brigade or the "Sneaky-Beakies" special discounted fares apply to you and your party. Call the RTO on 07941 569239 or email [neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk](mailto:neil.howard@coldwarexpress.co.uk) if you are eligible.

If you do not wish to attend the After-Train Cabaret Party in Berlin deduct €250 pp. Recommended if you don't like late nights these days, or are of a sensitive disposition.

Fares shown only apply to reservations made before Sept 2018. No child fares.

**Exchange rate:** all fares shown in EUR. The final sum due in GBP or other currencies will be set at the rate as published by Barclays bank PLC on 1 March 2019.

**Luggage:** We will transfer your luggage from hotel to hotel, provided you attach the proper tag provided. If you don't, you will probably never see it again!

**Note the train is not provided with on-board Wi-Fi.**

**Meals ; Buffet** Breakfast every day at the hotel or on board ship. The train conveys a "pub snack car", a formal Dining Car and a Cocktail Bar Car with a very competent Steward. In Rheingold Class all meals on board are included.

For Dress Code and Passengers with Restricted Mobility please see Page 15 .

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The Luftwaffe requests the pleasure of your company at Fliegerhorst Fassberg for three days to join our Day of German Armed Forces and Berlin Airlift 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations...not words that rail passengers often, or ever, get to read. Except this time! It is an honour for this train. In terms of accommodation, think “Glamping” – Glastonbury without the mud, tents drugs or uncivilised toilets but rather more Eurofighters and Dakotas Rooms are basic, with shared but (this *is* Germany) meticulously clean and working amenities. Couples travelling first class get an officers’ twin room.

*An Officers’ twin room*



*Basic facilities, and shared but spotless.*



Our social and hospitality will be based in the old RAF Officers Mess. As the old saying goes “What happens in the mess...stays in the Mess” or “Careless talk costs Careers”



*Above – the Mess today.  
Inset -1953*

The Fassberg Mess Bar – also known as the “When I... Arms”. Fliegerhorst Fassberg is both the Aviation Engineering School and a working military air base, so it is a huge site split in two by a working runway, which can be fatal to cross without a Grown Up. High Frequency timetabled and on-demand bus shuttles will get you safely from barracks to the flying displays, events and parties.

## DRESS CODE

Smart casual, but for particular commemorations and events –Market Garden Cocktail Reception in Arnhem, Luneburg Thanksgiving, 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 battlefields. 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 or personal visits to war graves. 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 above.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

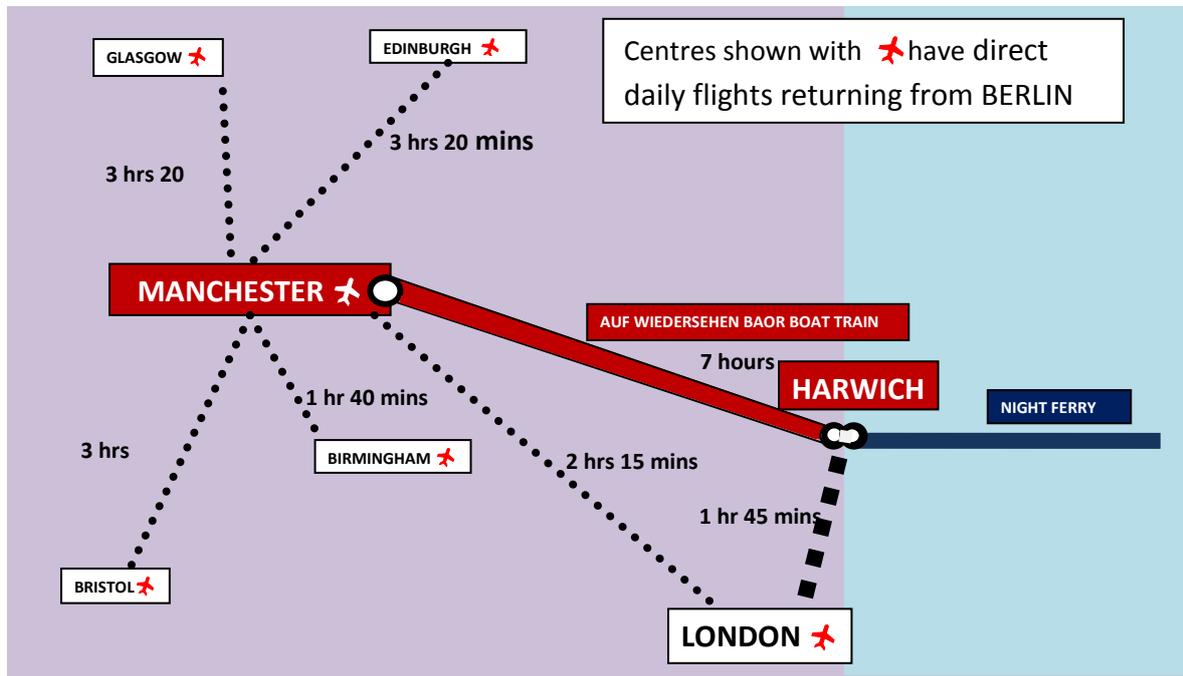
This is an unprecedented special train. We offer grateful thanks to the following who by entering into the spirit, have helped make it all possible: Allied Museum Berlin, Airborne Museum Arnhem, British Forces Germany HQ Bielefeld, British-German Association, Bundeswehr, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport UK, Deutsche Bahn AG, Luftwaffe, Marienborn (Checkpoint Alpha) Memorial Foundation, Osthannoversche Eisenbahn AG, Royal British Legion – District of Germany and Berlin Branch, Royal Engineers Association, Royal Logistic Corps Association, Stoom Stichting Nederland, Rotterdam, the Burgermeister and officials of Stadt Bergen, Stadt Helmstedt, Stadt Lueneburg Stadt Wesel, University of London Officer Training Unit. We are indebted to them all, but any Errors and Omissions are entirely our own.

## CONTACT US:

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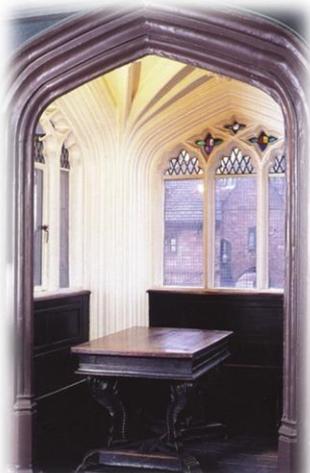
# COMING HOME

This is a one way train for obvious reasons. There are two ways back to the UK after the Auf Wiedersehen BAOR train (not included in the fare). Manchester enjoys direct trains from almost everywhere in UK, and direct return flights as shown below



Low cost airlines, more or less hourly to London, Manchester and regional airports. From £29.00, BA and Lufthansa (Eurowings) fly about every 2 hours to London Heathrow. Additional services (not shown on the map) operated by Flybe to Doncaster, Jersey and Cardiff. Or by rail; 186 mph High Speed train to London, from Berlin, 12 hr journey.

## MANCHESTER AND BERLIN : A TALE OF TWO TABLES



*Manchester Library ; Birthplace of Communism  
Amazingly both tables still exist and can be visited. although you do have to nav.*



*Cecilienhof Palace, where it reached the top table.*

Version 2 Valid from April 2018 until further notice. . ©Neil Howard/Cold War Express.litinerary subject to alteration

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