

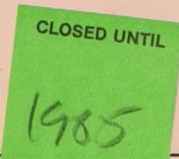


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FROM WHOM <i>F.O. Germany</i>		DATE <i>13/11/54</i>
MARKINGS TO BOARD TO		SUBJECT <i>Royal Navy Rhine Squadron</i>
TRANSIT LIST SENT BY		<i>1954 Autumn Cruise — Full</i>
  <i>John Donald - 5.1.81</i>		FORMER(S)
		

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<i>16/11/54</i>	<i>M44</i>				
<i>M44</i>	<i>27.4.61</i>				
		<i>PA/25yrs</i>			

NOTATION ONLY

*27/1/55*

9 JAN 1955  
 21 JAN 1955


*M44*  
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7 - FEB 1955

*16/2/55*  
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See also M. 17/84/54 attached.

*m. w. Blake*  
*for H. G. M.*  
*1. 1. 55*

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Royal Naval Rhine Squadron,  
R.A.O.R. 34.

October, 1954.

REPORT OF VISIT TO BASLE

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It had been my intention to proceed at night, if possible, after waiting at Alt Breisach for the small M.L.s to catch up. However, at nightfall the French Naval pilot embarked in M.L. 6019 refused to go any further and the Division berthed at Sassbach (left bank KM 240.3).

The Swiss team were most indignant that the pilots would not proceed, assuring me that the river was so high as to preclude the small craft grounding unless they actually went more than 25 metres either side of the centre of the River. They proceeded to the craft at Sassbach to try and make the pilots change their attitude. In this, however, they were unsuccessful and accordingly I myself went to Sassbach arriving at 0030 and at 0100 the Division sailed. I remained in M.L. 6019 to direct operations.

The larger craft sailed at 0400 from Alt Breisach and the divisions rendezvoused at Ottmarsheim where I re-embarked in 6021. A certain amount of delay at the Southern lock was encountered and it was not until noon that the Squadron steamed over the junction of the three frontiers and up to Basle.

Just prior to this, a reception committee embarked in M.L. 6021:-

- Kreiscommandant Colonel Saladin.
- Platzcommandant Colonel Rickenbacher.
- Stadt Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Huber.
- Doctor W. Mangold Director of Basle Rhine Port.
- A. A. E. Franklin, Esq., H.B.M. Consul, Basle.
- Herr Pobé, Belgian Consul, Basle.
- Lieutenant Colonel S. N. S. Hutchins, British Military Attache, Berne.
- Commander (E) G. A. Hewett, D.S.C., B.S.c. Royal Navy,  
Asst. British Naval Attache, Rome.
- Doctor Kurt Waldner.

Doctor Breschbuhls, Chief of Basle City Police embarked later from a small launch, while the Squadron was still under way.

Our late arrival had been broadcast to the waiting crowds by police car, and the streets and bridges were still thronged with people.

Although the British Consul had been assured that no salute could be returned by the craft, the Squadron received a salute of 25 guns, a welcoming one gun salute from each Canton fixed from an ancient field piece from the old Bridge which was the southerly limit of the Squadron's Steam Past.

The Squadron returned downstream to the port of Basle to berth and the reception committee were duly entertained. The Press came on board until about 1430 and took a large number of photographs, both of the craft and the men.

A boat tour of the port area and upstream of the middle bridge lasted from 1500 to 1600, the Press being embarked as well. A motor and coach tour of the city commenced immediately afterwards and lasted until the first reception at 1715.

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