

Former British Soldiers celebrate Association's anniversary in Königsutter

Britain maintained from 1951 to 1992 a signals unit in Langeleben



Königsutter. Keeping in touch with comrades after leaving the Army is in this case unique, no other disbanded unit does this. The staff officers of the Royal Signals are amazed.

This was disclosed by Major-General Tim Inshaw, the President of the Langeleben Reunion Association, in his speech on Saturday at a reception in the "Königshof" Hotel. "We are happy to come here because during our service we felt good and remember with affection the hospitality shown to us by the Germans", said the head of the old comrades' association. The British are even now very welcome when they come every two years, some from afar.

In the days of the Cold War, around 120 soldiers were stationed up in the Elm with the task of keeping an electronic watch on the forces of the Soviet Union. After 41 years on watch the withdrawal took place, the camp was closed and shortly afterwards the buildings were demolished. Now all that remains are the metalled roads. Bushes and trees now cover the site. A future use is not in sight.

The Old Comrades' Association, which was formed in 1993, celebrated its 25th anniversary at their former duty station over the weekend with around 60 old comrades, some with family and friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. James Crofts OSB, who also blessed the commemorative stone on the car park in Langeleben. Deceased comrades were also remembered. Music for the service was provided by the Band of the Söppingen Volunteer Fire Brigade, who played both the German as well as the British national anthems at the close.

81-year-old Sidney Hicken came in 1955 as a soldier to Langeleben, married Irmgard Lampe and stayed in Königsutter. "I look forward to seeing my old comrades again", he said at the service. The guests were gladly included in the *Schützenfest*. They were present on Friday at the opening ceremony with torchlight procession on the market place. On Saturday they celebrated after the combined evening meal in the marquee and on Sunday marched in the grand procession.