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Pan Am, Internal German Service Reflections

by Gene Woerner

I arrived in Berlin in March 1970 to start my new assignment flying in Pan American World Airway's Internal German Service.

It was supposed to be a 3-year assignment, but I was told I could pretty well leave any time after having spent one year, if I didn't like it or if I could upgrade.

Twelve years later, I left the Berlin to upgrade as Captain on the B-747 in San Francisco.

When I arrived in Berlin in 1970, I had no idea what to expect, I was, however, looking forward to flying the B-727, on which I had just completed flight training in Miami. After flying the B-707 in the Pacific for 6 years, the B727 felt like driving (flying) a sports car.

I had deadheaded to Frankfurt boarding my first B727 revenue flight to Berlin Tempelhof in the cockpit, I can't remember who the crew was, but they were very informative and friendly, and the approach into Tempelhof and landing to the east on Runway 09 was exciting and memorable, mostly because of the grazing sheep on the airport meadows right next to the active Runway,

As I got off the B727, one of the crew directed me to the crew lounge and from there to the Chief Pilots Office.

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No Password Needed for Members Only Section of the Website

Please note - we have changed the access to the online newsletters so that you will no longer need a password to access them. GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: www.clipperpioneers.com. To request a current membership list, email sue@clipperpioneers.com with your request. Click on the "Members Only" button on the righthand side to access the current and previous newsletters.

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The first person I met was Elke Furck, who, as everyone who was ever based in the IGS realized was the defacto Chief Pilot and ran the base - very efficiently, I might add.

I had heard that finding a place to live was a problem in Berlin; however, Elke immediately gave me a contact for an apartment that was available. It had just been vacated by a Dispatcher who was rotating back to the States.

I spent two nights at the Intercontinental Hotel, then bought myself into his 2 bedroom apartment on Kurfuersten Strasse, literally in the center of West Berlin, a great location!

A couple of days later, after getting familiar with the layout of the Operations, Dispatch and Chief Pilot offices, I was introduced to the Crew Room, also known as the Cuckoo's nest, where I was assigned a locker. It was exciting and felt like I was back in High School.

I was assigned to a check Pilot, Captain Otto Kiehle. For the first few patterns, we spent three days flying together. Every day, six legs of flying, and I flew at least once to all the six airports Pan Am served at that time was going to get me familiar with the IGS operation.

Captain Otto Bismark Kiehl, was born to fly in the IGS and to reside in Berlin, the former Capital of the Kingdom of Prussia.

His name says it all! He was known as a tough, somewhat eccentric Captain. I wonder why, but all true. Everything went well, I learned a lot from him and had no problem getting along with his idiosyncrasies. I guess my German background helped.

For my first full month of flying I had a line with Captain Joe Bennett, whom I had already heard was another character and institution in the Internal German Service. As an aeronautical engineering student, he did several semesters in Berlin at the Technical University, and during that time met Adolph Hitler, Herman Goering, the head of the German Luftwaffe, as well as several other high ranking German Officers and Pilots.

He eventually became a Pilot with American Overseas Airlines (AOA), the Airline that flew in and out of Berlin during the Berlin Blockade. AOA was bought by Pan Am, and thus Captain Bennett became a Clipper Skipper.

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Bank balance as of September 29, 2023 was \$21,530.66. The opportunity to renew your membership with your donation is on a form on page 7 of this newsletter, which will go toward continuing forward. Thank you to the those who have mailed in your donations in 2023 already! Be sure to clip and send in your check if you'd like to continue to receive the newsletter. Thank you!

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One our first flights after I introduced myself as being a new Pilot at the base, he told me that I would be flying the first leg to Frankfurt. He kept a close eye on me and seemed satisfied with my performance. We mostly did our paperwork and dispatch releases on the airplane because the turnaround times were only 30 minutes. After he signed the paperwork, he told me that I would be flying the rest of the five legs.

As soon as we were in cruise flight, he brought his portable typewriter out of his flight bag and started typing. I found out later that he was working on his memoirs.

That's the way it was the whole month. As I recall, he only flew a couple of legs, and it didn't matter what the weather was. Surprisingly, it was mostly good that month all over Germany.

I quickly became a proficient IGS Pilot and loved the flying. The IGS, as I found out, was a wonderful base made up of characters that included Captains, First Officer and Flight Engineers ranks.

A classmate in my original new hire class came to Berlin shortly after I arrived. He was a fellow Canadian; we had met each other when we were Pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was married with two young children. His wife shared with me that he was hitting the bottle much too often, and she was very concerned.

During the first twelve month in Berlin, I got three phone calls in the middle of the night from her, asking me to take her husband's trip in the morning as he was in no condition to fly. Trip trading was easy and could be done by the Pilots, as crew scheduling was mostly interested only in having a complete crew and that the flights left on schedule.

The Berlin Crew parties at the Europa Center, a popular shopping area that also had a number of very nice but expensive apartments, were well known all over the system and all of us who did not live there were always hoping for an invitation.

One evening, Pete the Greek, one of the maintenance supervisors, gave one of his famous parties and that particular night I was invited. Pete had flown in all kinds of fresh seafood from Greece. It was a scrumptious feast, the food was out of this world, and there were no shortages of alcoholic beverages. Around 11pm that evening, several of the attendees, among them a number of crew members, got violently ill. Some of them were scheduled to fly the following morning,

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We'd like to have more stories to share! If you have a story you'd like to send, please send it in sooner rather than later! We appreciate you and the interesting stories you send in for all to enjoy! Email to: sue@clipperpioneers.com.

**Pan Am Historical Society has a Facebook page. You can view it here:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pan-Am-Historical-Foundation/226994925218>**

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As it turned out, there were no Reserves. They were all also at the party. Consequently, a number of flights were delayed or had to be canceled. The next day, the Pilot who was also at the party, had a lot explaining to do to the top management at Hangar 14 in New York.

The crew lounge, known as the Cuckoos' Nest at Tempelhof, and later, after the whole Pan Am operation was moved to Tegel Airport, was an interesting place. With the crew lockers and a large bulletin board, it was the command center of the base. The Bulletin board was meant mostly for official business, but also ended up as a sounding board for personal postings as well as available apartments for rent, and cars for sale, along with notes about crew members, management, or scheduling personnel. It got to the point that the Bulletin Board had to be encased with a lock and key and only authorized people had keys.

There are many more memorable times and incidents that took place during my 12 years in Berlin. Perhaps those could be told at another time, if I can still type and remember them!

Pan Am SFO Lunch & Lecture Reunion

***Save the Date* Saturday December 2, 2023**

I am pleased to announce our speaker for our annual lunch and lecture. Ken Fortenberry, is the author of the Pan Am history based investigation into the disappearance of Pan Am flight 7 on routine flight from SFO to Honolulu on November 8, 1957. Among the 36 passengers and 8 crew members lost that day was Ken's father, William H. Fortenberry, acting as pilot-navigator. Ken will share with us his 30+ year campaign to solve the mystery of the disappearance, and ultimately to organize the memorial of PAA flight 7, recently dedicated at the Millbrae City Hall.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn an important part of Pan Am history and how the event improved aviation safety and the advent of the FAA.

Copies of Ken's book will be available for purchase and signature by the author.

Registration will open in October. Please reply now if you plan to attend. Seating will be limited to the room at Michaels at Shoreline in Mt View, CA.

Al Gilbert

Do You Know About Events that are Upcoming?

There are many events and get-togethers that may be of interest to our readers. If you know about one, or have a group that gets together on a regular basis - or even once in awhile - please let us know so we can share with our readers! :)

Don't forget to check out our website at: www.clipperpioneers.com

Mark Your Calendar - Dec. 7, 2023 - New York City

Great Lunch with Joanne Spencer

Hello Pan Amers, I am happy to confirm we are planning our Pan Am NYC luncheon on Thursday Dec. 7, 2023 at Noon to 3:00PM. We only do this once a year, so I hope you make every effort to attend and bring a friend. Here are details:

Villa Mosconi Restaurant, 69 Macdougall St. (bet Bleecker and W. Houston Sts, Greenwich Village, N. Y. 10012 - Tel: 212 674-0390. Menu will consist of: appetizers, salad, pastas, bread and butter, chicken, fish, meat. Coffee and dessert. White and red wine, beer and soft drinks, tax and tip. Cost: \$70.00 CASH ONLY, REPEAT CASH ONLY pay at door.

So let me hear from you. Until then, stay well and happy.

Regards, JoAnne and Ann, *PAN AM FOLKS AROUND THE WORLD*

A Documentary Series about Pan American Airways on PBS

When Pan Am's M-130 flying boat "China Clipper" took off for the first scheduled flight to Manila on November 22, 1935, it riveted the attention of people around the world. At that moment Pan Am vaulted to a commanding position and the world changed forever as a result. That's the story brought to life in "Across the Pacific." Newly unearthed archival motion pictures, photographs, and original sound recordings as well as stunning graphics, help bring this history back to life.

The film by Moreno/Lyons Productions tells the epic story of how Pan American Airways became the first to bridge the mighty Pacific - the first airline to cross any ocean. Focusing in particular on the contributions of Pan Am's visionary leader Juan Trippe, aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky, and radio engineer Hugo Leuteritz, the three-part program is currently broadcast on PBS. "Across the Pacific" premiered on VPM PBS in Richmond Virginia May/June 2020. You can watch each episode on the home page of the Clipper Pioneers website (www.clipperpioneers.com)

Smithsonian Presentation - Pan Am Stewardess in War and Peace

Our friends at the Smithsonian wanted us to help spread the word about an upcoming presentation: **The Pan Am Stewardess in War and Peace** and I wanted to share it with you: <https://airandspace.si.edu/whats-on/events/pan-am-stewardess-war-and-peace> And did you see our new Digital Library? Check out: <https://exhibits.panam.digital/great-expectations/index.html>

Thanks as always!

Doug, Pan Am Historical Foundation

Thanks to those of you who have sent us stories! Keep 'em coming!

Pan Am Philadelphia Area Pilots (PAPAP)

We meet the second Tuesday of every quarter at the Continental Inn in Yardley, PA at 1200 for a bit of BS before going to our private conference room upstairs for lunch.

Been going on since 1992 and it's a great way to stay together. Contact: Chris Blaydon [215 757 6229](tel:2157576229) or cblayd@aol.com

Flying Boat Reunion clip now available for viewing

A 15-minute special that aired April 27, 2016 on Ireland's popular RTE TV show "Nationwide" is now available for viewing. China Clipper First Officer Robert Hicks (94); Merry Barton, daughter of Folger Athearn (Pan Am's station manager in Noumea, New Caledonia in 1941); Director of the Foynes Flying Boat Museum Margaret O'Shaughnessy; Ed Trippe and Mary Lou Bigelow were interviewed during the Foynes Flying Boat reunion. <http://www.rte.ie/player/us/show/nationwide-21/10566026/>

Pan Am -- Personal Tributes to A Global Aviation Pioneer

The Pan Am Historical Foundation recently published the highly acclaimed *Pan Am – Personal Tributes to a Global Aviation Pioneer*, a book that caught the attention of Pan Amers and aviation enthusiasts around the world. Visit <https://www.panam.org/shop/669-panam90-book> to order.

Flying Somewhere? Useful Tip for Air Traffic

FlightAware is a free flight tracker that will change what you think about live flight tracking and aviation data. It can be seen at: www.flightaware.com/

Layovers for Pan Am

Check out Pan American layovers at www.paacrewlayover.com, where some 81 cities and over 161 hotels are shown in photos.

Check Out the Lockerbie Website

A website has been created for Lockerbie. It can be viewed at www.lockerbie103.com. It might be a worthwhile site to check out, especially for those who plan on visiting Lockerbie. Be sure to enter the web address in the browser (not Google Search, etc.) with the www. Otherwise, they will get hundreds of Lockerbies and 103s and may not find the web site after 15 pages. ~Claude Hudspeth

Thank You for the Stories You're Sending In! Keep 'em coming!!

We've been getting some good stories about memories of your times with Pan Am, and we want you to know we appreciate it! Keep them coming, and you will see them in the upcoming issues! Are there memories you've written down that you'd like to share with us in this newsletter - short or long? Have you come across an interesting article that you'd like to share with us? Would you share pieces from a book you've written? Send them to sue@clipperpioneers.com.

*...and God will lift you up on Eagle's Wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

IN MEMORIAM

There are no obituaries to report this month. If you know of anyone who has passed, please let us know so we can share that information. Thank you.

For more information and full obituaries about each of these friends who will be missed, click on "In Memory Of..." at our website: www.clipperpioneers.com. Know of someone from Pan Am who has passed? Email the obit to Sue Forde at sue@clipperpioneers.com, or mail to: **Sue Forde, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim, WA 98382**

How to Avoid a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

RENEW TODAY!

In order to keep the newsletter and website going for the Clipper Pioneers, it's time for renewal donations. If you haven't already, please send your donation to: Clipper Pioneers, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim, WA 98382. Thank you!

Your Name: _____ 0 _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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Amount Donated: \$ _____

(Make check payable to: Clipper Pioneers and mail to: P. O. Box 3457, Sequim WA 98382)

Thank you for your continuing support of the Clipper Pioneers!

Tips for Healthy Living

Choose foods that are high in fiber. To help control and regulate the speed of digestion, choose the foods that are perfect companions in this area, such as: split peas, lentils, lima beans, black beans artichokes, broccoli, peas, raspberries, brussel sprouts, avocados, blackberries, bran flakes, pears, pearled barley, whole-wheat pasta, and oatmeal. (You can also add flaxseed meal to smoothies, yogurt and baked goods to help with digestion).

Remember to incorporate Vitamin D. For aging adults, it's highly recommended to include Vitamin D in their diets, as it's important for muscle and bone function and preservation. It has been said that Vitamin D can actually assist in fall and osteoporotic fracture prevention, leading to less visits to the emergency room. Vitamin D can be obtained through supplements, food, and a little old-fashioned exposure to sunlight.

Limit sodium intake. Hypertension (high blood pressure) can be lowered or avoided by consuming food that is lower in sodium, such as fresh or frozen fruits, dry beans, unsalted nuts, grains, brown rice, and oats. Be careful when eating out, as some restaurant-prepared meals can be loaded in sodium without you knowing it.

Don't rush. There are many studies that show eating slowly can be beneficial to the body. Think: smaller bites + slower eating + more chewing = better digestion! Eating nutritious meal should be a marathon, not a sprint.

Consider probiotics. Gut health is important at any age. Some benefits of taking probiotics include increased levels of bifidobacteria, reduction of constipation, and enhanced immunity. Probiotics are available in foods, such as milk, juices, soy beverages and yogurt.

Eat with a friend. For seniors, it can be beneficial to combat malnutrition by eating with a friend or family member. In social settings, aging adults tend to eat more and make better food choices. Plus. laughter and conversation can make a meal much more enjoyable.

Don't skip breakfast. Studies show that eating a proper breakfast is one of the most positive things you can do if you are trying to lose weight. Breakfast skippers tend to gain weight. A balanced breakfast includes fresh fruit or fruit juice, a high-fibre breakfast cereal, low-fat milk or yoghurt, wholewheat toast, and a boiled egg.

Don't forget your Omega 3's. Eating foods that are high in Omega-3's, such as fish and nuts, does wonders for the body. Not only is it known to decrease chances for heart disease and stroke, but it can improve general brain function, including memory and Parkinson's disease.

(from <https://www.thehelperbees.com/families/healthy-hive/healthy-living-for-seniors/>)

Please update your email address and phone number if it's been changed!

Email or write to: Clipper Pioneers, c/o Sue Forde, P. O. Box 3457, Sequim WA 98382 or email to: sue@clipperpioneers.com
