

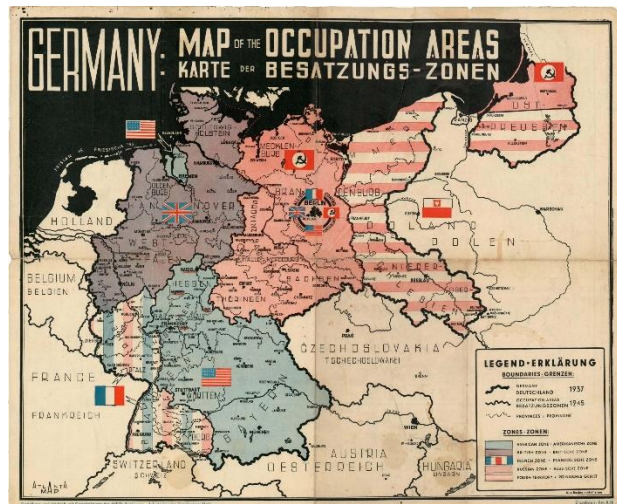
## In the Spotlight – Germany

By Ed “Hazukashii” Howell

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The map of Germany basically makes it look like a drunken Pacman about to devour the Czech Republic. Once you get past that visual, you will see that it is an amazing country in the heart of Central Europe. Historically, Germany has had a few issues, but I’ll let [Norm McDonald](#) explain.

After WW 1, the Treaty of Versailles set out some very harsh restrictions on Germany that ultimately fueled the rise of the Nazi Party and Hitler. As WW 2 was drawing to a close, the allied powers began planning at the Yalta Conference for how best to deal with Germany after the war, taking in consideration of the previous results. After Germany’s unconditional surrender on V-E Day (Victory over Europe on 8 May 1945), the allied powers would meet again at the Potsdam Conference to establish conditions to be imposed. The country would be divided into 4 occupation zones controlled by France (South-West), United Kingdom (North-West), the United States (South-East), and the Soviet Union (North-East).



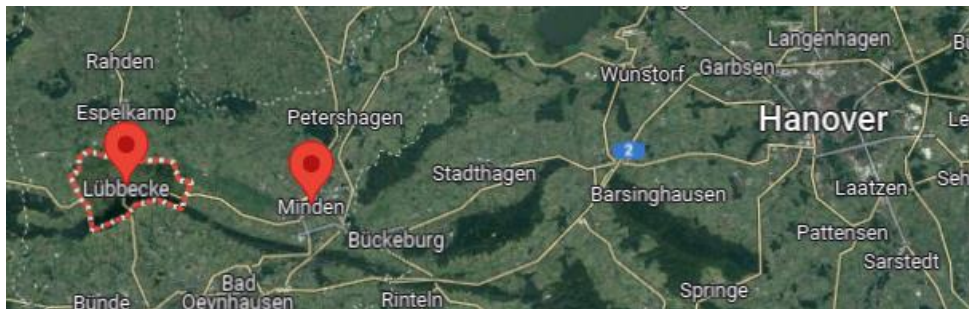
The Soviet Union was assigned the north-east quadrant as they already occupied that area at the end of the war. This zone included the capital city of Berlin, and due to the growing mistrust of the Soviet Union, Berlin was also divided into 4 quadrants similar to the country. The Soviet Union decided it would also continue to occupy most of Eastern Europe. In 1948, the Soviets blockaded Berlin sowing the seeds of the Cold War, resulting in the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on 4 Apr 1949. In 1961, the Soviets built the Berlin Wall, separating families for many decades until it was eventually taken down in 1989. At this point, you might think that Germans have no sense of humor . . . you know where this is going, right? It’s the truth, not just a rumor <insert comical but sinister laughing here>.

OK, all kidding aside, my maternal grandfather and several uncles fought for Germany in the second world war. A couple even ended up as POWs, and when I was young, they told me stories about their experiences both during and after the war. Years later, my father would end up serving as part of the occupation force with the United States Army from 1958 to 1963. Many more years later, with Germany as an ally, I would spend the final 4 years of my own 31-year military career as a Marine in Stuttgart, retiring in 2012. Interestingly enough, this is where I started writing the history of hashing.

We had a guest hare one day on the Dienstag Schnitzeljagd Trupp H3 that I founded in 2009. Some of you may know him as Likk'mm, who had come over for a visit from Switzerland. After the run, we were having dinner and he made a random comment wondering who started, and where was, the first hash in Germany. This got me curious, and I started doing some research and made [my first report on hash history](#). That was the beginning of what has now become well [over 100 articles](#), and hopefully the publishing of my first book (if I can get it done) later this year.



Back to Germany . . . During the years of occupation, the British forces would bring in one of their favorite pastimes, hare and hounds, also known as the Hash House Harriers. I was able to



track down Richard 'Mountain Rescue' McAllister who founded the **Lubbecke H3** and he told me . . . "Sadly, I have no record of the

precise start date for the first Hash in Germany but it was in the summer of 1971 and was made up of members of the staff of Headquarters 2nd Division in Lubbecke, near Minden."

Mountain Rescue (MR) also provided a picture of the original hashers in that club, stating that these were the . . . "first group of fourteen who formed on the lawn outside the delightful Officers Mess, a building previously used by Hitler for his Youth Leader trainers. We met every week in all weathers." As you can see from the map above, this area has plenty of greenery, which would make for excellent trails. MR add . . .

*Trails were laid in sawdust (even then, German law would not allow us to use the paper trails we were used to in the Far East) that was readily available at no cost to the Hash from local woodcutters. We became experts in recognising the age of sawdust as the concentration of deposits increased around the close area of the Mess. Beer was always at hand in the bar.*



Lubbecke H3 circa 1971

MR mentioned they did not confine their trails to the local forest, but would take advantage of opportunities to drive further out for new adventures, adding . . . "We didn't have official Hash T shirts, nor did we have names, although I was called 'Wheeze' (despite being a non-smoker and non-asthmatic, I used to puff a bit on the many hills round and about)." Being an occupation force for many years by this point, families

were also allowed to join their husbands. As MR put it . . . “It was still a men's non-athletic running club although the institution of the Hash Pash provided the ladies the chance to catch up with their menfolk and the parties would go on well into the early hours.” MR spoke fondly of his time in Germany, and closed with . . . “On being posted out of Germany in 1973, I left all the records with the Headquarters that has since moved to the UK and I guess the records didn't make it back.”

The United States was responsible for the second hash club in February 1977, when Paul ‘Major Major’ Naylor founded the **Kaiserslautern H3**. I was able to track down Major Major and quiz him a bit on how he got this club started. Paul was a member of the Washington DC H3 prior to transferring to Germany with the US Army. He explained the origins as . . .

*I started the K-Town Hash in February 1977 and it was still going when I left in Jan 79. There was another officer who helped me get it started. He was an alum of the Fort Eustis, Virginia hash. The Army was pushing hard on fitness and running at the time, so I offered it as an alternative to the running requirement. Beer was an incentive. We marked with flour and chalk. The local population didn't seem to mind. Although I did have a long conversation with the local Railroad Police over the matter of running on the tracks of high-speed trains. Unfortunately, I don't have a copy of the logo. It featured a large carp with running shoes and a beer in one fin. This was to honor the local legend of Kaiser Frederick catching a large fish in the Lautern [river].*

After departing Germany, Major Major went on to graduate school in North Carolina, and founded the Tar Heel H3, where he still resides. The Kaiserslautern H3 eventually faded away, but was followed up by the Ramstein H3, founded by Bill 'Big Boobs' Plummer on 6 May 1990. This club also had a short tenure, and was followed by the [Sembach H3](#), founded on 18 July 1999 by Todd 'Cum' Grebel, which is still active and runs in and around the Kaiserslautern area.

The **Heidelberg H3** was the third hash club in Germany, founded by Jurgen Adler on 13 June 1979, assisted by Doktor Gerhardt Von Hofe. There is not much info available about this club, but I was able to get a little insight from Karla 'More Leggs' Brun who helped start the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heidelberg H3, she recollected that . . . “All I remember hearing is that there had been a previous hash that basically ran from the castle and across the old bridge and then went to a bar to drink. Same trail each time.”

This original Heidelberg H3 folded at some point around 1987, but a second iteration of the Heidelberg H3 was founded in April 1990 by Dave 'Worms' Ginsberg, who had come over from the Worms-Mannheim H3. He was assisted by Karla 'More Leggs' Reichert Kelley [Columbia H3 (MO)], Clay 'Slippery Seaman' Kelley [Samurai H3], Dick 'Underlubber' Dugan [Yongsan Kimchee H3]. This second club lasted until about 2010, when the US Military bases were closed in the area. I was living in Stuttgart at the time, and recall attending their last trail, then a year later some of us all met up for the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the last hash in Heidelberg. Once or twice was



not enough though, so a 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the last hash in Heidelberg in 2013 was organized, running around the castle area. Not sure if this continued, but it was fun.

The fourth hash, was the **Berlin H3** founded by Peter Prentis on 16 July 1979, he was assisted by Jeremy Davidson, Alun Davies, and Nigel Morley. As I gathered the listing of German hash clubs from the HHH Genealogy, the Berlin H3 was listed as starting in 1982. Looking at their website, their logo says 1979, so I started investigating. Asking via several sources on the internet about details of the founding, I was pointed to numerous hashers, and got some good info. They allowed me to dig through their online documents, and though mostly just random trail stories, I did see several logo designs as it changed a bit over the years.



Earliest circa 1980s



Then circa 1990s



Current logo

The best source of data came from Sebastian 'Cyber Donkey Sex' Winslow, who started by telling me he did not have much info, but proceeded to give me some good background.

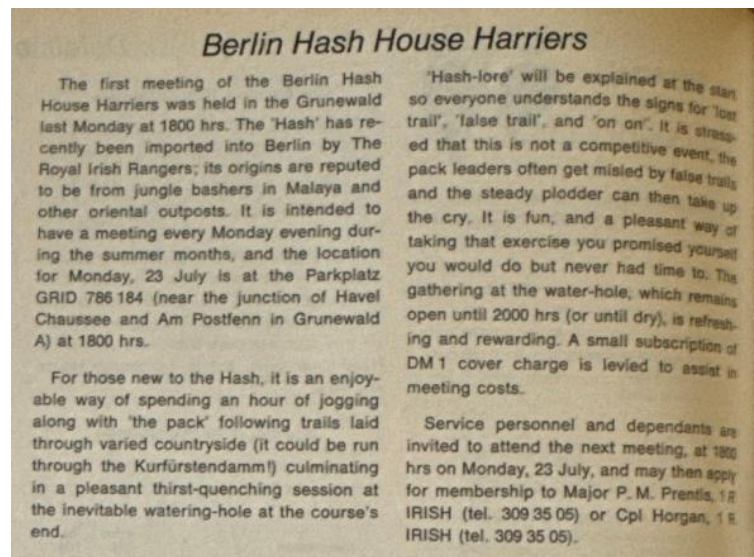
*What I have gathered is that it was founded by members of the Berlin Garrison in the late 70s, early 80, which at the time were mostly members of the Royal Irish Rangers.*

CDS started digging around and a few days later, he sent me the article to the right that appeared in the Berlin Bulletin in July 1979, that pinpointed the actual date as 16 July 1979.

So that answers most of the

questions about the origins of the

Berlin H3, but still looking to pinpoint what hash club the Royal Irish Rangers may have been running with before they deployed to Germany. Based on the research by CDS, the founder has been updated to Peter Prentis as noted above. He also added that in his reading . . .



*At least one founding member of Berlin H3 appears to have been Jeremy Davidson (who moved on to run with Chester H3 after being reassigned, and who is mentioned several times as a founding member in issues of the Bulletin in later 1981). Alun Davies and Nigel Morley also appear to have helped with mismanaging BH3 in the early months, having a lot and writing several reports. There is mention of the Bielefeld Hash House Harriers in a report from early 1980.*

I did some digging in the genealogy and found a couple potential clubs. The Chichester H3 near Sussex is possible, but the Wirral & Chester H3 near Wirral seems more likely. Many thanks to Cyber Donkey Sex for taking the time to track down this historical info on the Berlin H3.

Rounding out the top 10:

- Mike Mathews founded the **Rheindahlen H3** on 12 May 1980, assisted by Ron Davis. Very little info available about this hash, and there is no mother hash listed. I found an old blog site, but that also had no info. No longer active.
- Richard 'Tequilover' Piercy founded the **Ulm H3** on 8 June 1980, he had come over from the Surrey H3 in the United Kingdom. No longer active.
- John E. Kitching founded the first **Herford H3** sometime in 1981. He had come from the Wilton H3 in the United Kingdom. This club did not last long, as a second Herford H3 (the 10<sup>th</sup> hash in Germany) was founded 20 July 1984 by Albert de Foubert, who coincidentally had previously run with the Lübbecke H3, so that might be an indication how long the first hash club in Germany lasted. No longer active.
- Two unknown teachers from Cornwall founded the **Holzwickede H3** on 23 May 1982. No further details available.
- Chris 'Euroman' Bell founded the **West Rhine H3** on 21 June 1982, assisted by Geoff Garrett. No further details available.

There are numerous other hash clubs in Germany, and there have been a total of 55 founded since 1971. Twenty of these clubs are still actively hashing. Other notable clubs in Germany are:

The **Bonn H3** was founded on 9 Oct 1984 by Mike Caldwell, who came to Germany from the Melbourne H3 in Australia. He was assisted by Bob Hammond. In a search for the Bonn H3, the following info was found on their website . . .

*Low numbers of hashers and the defection of Mick "Local Yokel" Caulfield and Silvia "Shit For Brains" Caulfield to Düsseldorf, where they found several people who were interested in hashing but were not willing to travel each week down to Bonn. Therefore, after a couple of runs under the Bonn H3 banner, it was decided to found a Düsseldorf Chapter on 4th of July, 2004. A Cologne Chapter was also introduced allowing us to run every three weeks in the different areas. Three mismanagements were probably too many and so after 2005, only a*

year later, it was decided to have just one mismanagement and combine all the packs under the name "Combined Rhine Area Pack" (C.R.A.P.) H3.



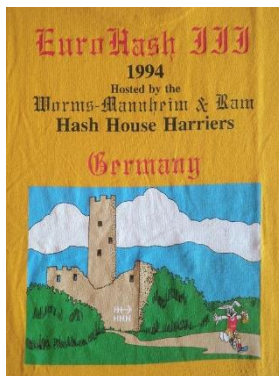
The **Hannover H3** was founded by Jürgen 'Old Rock' Ruder on 27 Dec 1984. Old Rock had been hashing in Rangoon prior to returning to Germany. Old Rock would go on to found the first hash in Paraguay, the Asuncion H3, in August of 1992. He returned to Hannover to continue to run with the Hannover H3. This club is still very active, running on alternating Sunday afternoons.

The **Frankfurt H3** was founded by Jürgen 'Double D' Decker and Alfred-Kurt (AKU) 'Gutten Tite' Zuber on 27 April 1987. They had been hashing in Baghdad, [Iraq](#) prior to this, where Gutten Tite had founded the Assyrian H3 in January of 1986. This club is still very active, running on Thursday evening in the summer, and Sunday afternoon in the winter.



The **Munich H3** was founded by Denise 'Zip Den Legs' Price on 1 Sep 1992, who had been hashing with the Vindobona H3 in Austria. She was assisted by Vic 'The Boss' Jones. The Munich H3 is best known for hosting the annual Oktoberfest hash.

The **Stuttgart H3** was founded by Doug 'The Slug' Steward on 23 Apr 1993. He had been hashing in the Philippine Islands with the Angeles City H3. Stuttgart is a very active hash city, with several clubs running weekly, biweekly, monthly, and for many special occasions.



Germany has hosted EuroHash twice, with the first being in Mannheim in 1994. The Frankfurt H3 hosted in 2001.

Germany also has a very popular Nash Hash that sells out every year.



For many more articles like this on the history of hashing, check out [In The Spotlight](#)

