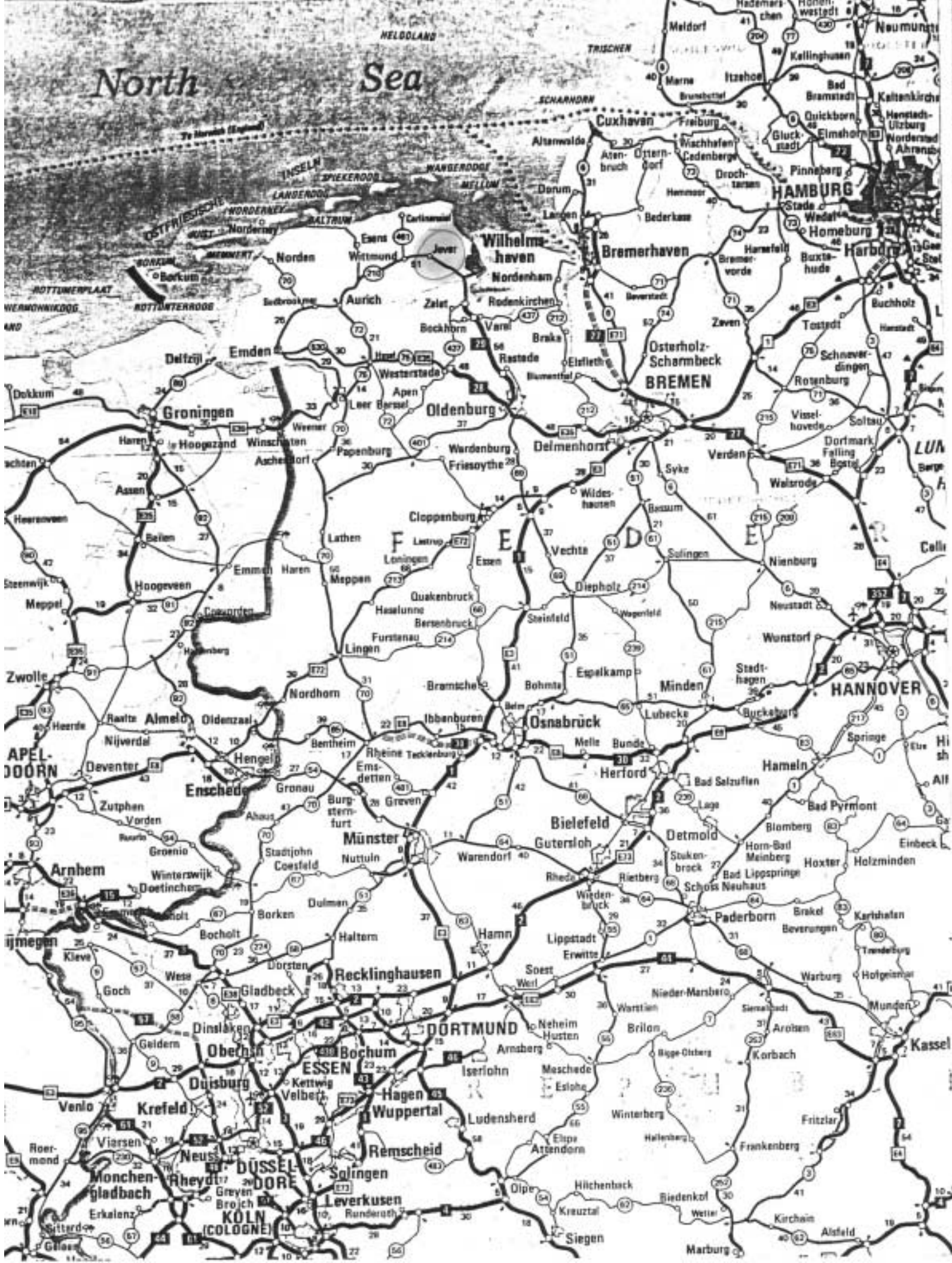


CORONET STORK

JEVER AB, WEST GERMANY

Six members of the 244th went to Jever AB, Germany. The 252d was tasked with communications support of exercise "Coronet Stork" -- the deployment of a tactical fighter unit from Moody AFB, Georgia to Jever AB, West Germany. The period of the deployment is from 23 August thru 2 September 1978. Jever AB is a German Air Force (Luftwaffe) base near the town of Jever, which is a few miles from the coast of the North Sea north west of Wilhelmshaven in Lower Saxony.



Guardsmen sharpen skills in realistic scenario

By Lt. Doug McCoy

347th Tac Fighter Wing Moody AFB, Ga.

JEVER AB, Germany — On the northern lowlands of Germany, eight miles shy of the North Sea, lies an underground, concrete bunker surrounded by concertina wire and signs in Deutsche proclaiming, "No Entry!" The bunker has an eerie presence which brings to mind battlefield pictures from recent history books.

Hard to guess that the bunker is the temporary home for an American center, university student, gas station attendant and others of dissimilar backgrounds.

Capt. George Sample and 21 Air National Guard (ANG) technicians occupy the buried fortress and make up the Communications Support Element (CSE) servicing the 68th Tactical Flying Sq. On a short-term tactical deployment to Jever AB, Germany, the 68th belongs to the 347th Tactical Fighter Wing at Moody AFB, Ga.

The five-week deployment is designed to provide an opportunity to work with NATO allies to develop a closer understanding of operating in a European environment while training for rapid reinforcement.

The scenario is realistic in that deployed personnel function exactly as in war-

time. "Our mission is to handle all incoming and out-going teletype traffic and provide data transmission service for the nearly 400 aircrew, maintenance and support personnel on this deployment," said Capt. Sample, commander of the CSE.

A full-time communications logistics officer for the 252d Combat Comm Gp., with the Washington Air National Guard in Tacoma, Capt. Sample praised his charge: "When you consider we have 22 people from 10 different ANG units and five separate states, the problems have been minimal. It only took a couple of days to get the glitches out and begin performing as a team."

"We're not in this alone, either," said the career officer. "The Germans have been great. Anything we have needed as far as service and equipment support, we've gotten," he said.

The CSE is composed of nine comm center operators and 12 equipment maintenance technicians who work around the clock seven days a week.

Tasked by AFCS to support the development, the trip to Jever AB is not unlike other ANG com-

mitments. "This is one of six deployments the ANG is supporting this year. Between here, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Greece and Portugal, we've been pretty busy," said Capt. Sample. "It's our business. When you consider AFCS is 75 percent manned by Air Reserve Forces during war-time, we have to keep proficient," he added.

The deployment, which ends today, has been a learning and cultural experience for the Guardsmen.

"It has been fantastic," said SSgt. Greg Westmiller, a Seattle, Wash. shipyard carpenter and shift supervisor in the comm center. "When I heard volunteers were needed to support the 68th, I was one of the first in line," he said.

This is SSgt. Westmiller's first European deployment and, besides learning to operate in a war-time environment, he and the others have had the opportunity to visit North Sea beaches, Amsterdam and German cities steeped in ancient customs, traditions and architecture.

In addition to the Washington Guardsmen from the 252d Comm Gp. and other Northeastern United States ANG units, those in the CSE manning

the otherwise unused bunker are from the 236th Combat Comm Flight, Hammond, La.; the 267th Combat Comm Sq., Wellesley, Mass.; and the 211th Electronic 1st. Sq., Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa.



Commands bunker

Capt. George Sample (right), a full-time communications logistics officer with the 252d Combat Comm Gp. (ANG) in Tacoma, Wash., stands in front of the Communications Support Element (CSE) bunker with Capt. Freddy Haggard, a pilot with the 68th Tactical Flying Sq. Capt. Sample commands the CSE.

Airmen sent to West Germany

GERMANY—Six airmen and three officers departed Portland Air National Guard Base for Germany recently to take part in joint training exercises in Europe.

Staff Sergeant Craig A. Knipe, Sr., Airmen Terry Cummings and Keith Macki, Sergeant Raymond Bennett and Airman First Class Conrad Spins, all of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron, and Sergeant Steven Crawford, 116th Tactical Training Squadron, departed with the 347th

Tactical Fighter Wing from Georgia to Javer, Germany, on August 22.

The Air Guard personnel helped operate and maintain a communications center van and control circuits to Darmstadt, Germany. U.S. fighter aircraft participated with a West German fighter wing in close air support, air-to-ground interdiction and other missions in exercise Cornet Stork, which began Aug. 23 and ended Oct. 2.

In early September, three senior officers from the 153d Tactical Air Control Center Squadron (TACCS) departed for Europe to join in exercise Reforger, involving troops from the various U.S. Army services and its allies.

Colonels Ivan Jones and Norman Battaglia, along with Major Phillip Gritter, were assigned as duty officers with the U.S. Air Force in Europe operations center.