

# FOL Ørland in the spotlight



*Sunset: A NATO E-3A and a Norwegian F-16 on static display in Ørland during the pre-selection of the song festival.*

Text and photos  
Maureen Geraets-Head

**A small section of Ørland Hovedflystasjon, Norway, is reserved for the NATO AWACS. It is known as Forward Operating Location (FOL) Ørland. NATO AWACS deploy here on a regular basis to perform mission training and exercises. Two crews from Squadron 3 were at the FOL from 7 to 15 January, not just for training but also to put an AWACS on static display during the regional semi-finals of the Eurovision song festival. They also hosted a Norwegian TV production team flying onboard the AWACS for a documentary on two young Norwegian F-16 pilots**

## **experiencing an AWACS mission over Norway.**

The FOL is a well-maintained and restful place, its people are qualified, friendly and helpful. With Operations, Maintenance and Supply offices and a hangar that fits one AWACS, it is a perfect place for deployments. Since 2000, this FOL has supported an average of 172 AWACS sorties per year – that's almost one sortie every other day – except in 2005, when 225 sorties were flown. FOL Ørland is also used for pilot training sorties, thus accommodating Geilenkirchen Air Base's goal to export training flights.

The 32 military personnel and one civilian that work here are proud to

assist the deployed AWACS crews, no matter what the requirements are. "It's nice to be the Commander here", Lt. Col. Per Mathisen says. "All the FOL personnel are experienced and extremely flexible. Many of them have been here since 1983 and their average years of experience amount to about 12-13 years." Lt. Col. Mathisen also adds, "We have a very good relationship with our host base. The service they have been providing to this FOL and NATO for the past 26 years is above and beyond the Memorandum of Agreement requirements."

For one day, on 8 January, Forward Operating Location (FOL) Ørland in Norway was the stage for the Eurovision song festival pre-selection

event, the Melodi Grand Prix. Air Base Ørland military personnel transformed the hangar that usually gives shelter to the NATO E-3A into a real TV studio with professional, high-tech stage, sound and light systems and TV cameras able to travel from all corners, plus seating for an audience of 2,800 community members. FOL Ørland Commander Lt. Col. Mathisen was proud to open his hangar for this special event. "As the surrounding area here doesn't have a location that's big enough to accommodate 2,000-3,000 people – the local community hall has room for only 400 persons – we were glad to help out in supporting this song festival."

**Continues on page 4**

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# MWA food services reorganization

By Services Squadron

**As already mentioned in the last December NATO Skywatch edition, the Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA) organization of the E-3A Component's Services Squadron will undergo several changes. To keep all Component personnel updated, we will publish articles on the different services in the coming weeks. Questions can be addressed to the Services Squadron's official inbox (OFC-SWPC@e3a.nato.int).**

All bookings, requests, staff issues, etc. will be done out of one central office. The new Food Service Section Manager is Mr. René Peeters. Any questions/requests should be directed to him directly. An office is already established at the E-3A Club, which is open from 0900 to 1600 by appointment. Email rpeeters@e3a.nato.int, ext. 4990.

We will offer a variety of facilities to serve the Component:

- The Rotodome will be available for breakfast and lunch and in some cases dinner.
- The E-3A Club will offer coffee and cake during the day in a relaxed atmosphere. In the evening, an A la Carte dinner will be served.
- The Sentry Club will continue to serve fast food items such as pizza, hamburgers, etc., but will also offer light bread rolls with different healthy toppings (tuna, vegetables, etc.). All Sentry Club items will be available for take away.
- Additionally, two event locations will be open. The Red Lion will be open every Wednesday and the Bavarian Cellar will be open only by request. The Food Service Section will satisfy all your food and beverage needs.

## Rotodome

The Rotodome will be the main food facility on the Component for breakfast and lunch. Both will be served in a self-service restaurant type system. Our guests will choose their meals and drinks at the service line and pay for those items at the cash register. One serving line will be available for breakfast and two serving lines for lunch. The price will always include the main items. Additional items, such as additional drinks, will cost more.

Opening hours Monday-Friday from 0600 to 0930 (breakfast) and 1100-1400 (lunch).

## Sentry Club

The Sentry Club will be available for all ranks.

The Sentry club will offer fast food items. We will serve 'Brötchen' with different toppings during breakfast, which is also available for take away. The kitchen will open at 1100 for lunch for pizza, hamburgers and healthy bread rolls.

The Sentry Club also holds a variety of off sale/lent like beverages, bar tables, so if you need some beverages, bar tables, tables, and benches.

Opening hours Monday-Friday 0800-1000 (breakfast/take away) and 1100-1700 (fast food);

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 1100-1700.

## E-3A Club

The E-3A Club will be open to all NCOs, Officers, or equivalent civilians. The opportunity to hold conferences, official functions, private functions, serving coffee and cake and dinner is available. Space is available for functions from 10 to 350 persons.

Coffee and cake will be available every day, Monday through Friday as of 1100 until 2200. The restaurant will be A la Carte and buffet style to

allow shift workers' requirements. The menu card will change every season. We will also serve a list of items, which will not change. Every second Sunday of the month, brunch will be available.

In case of a large function or official function at the E-3A Club, dinner will be served in the Rotodome. Such occasions will be published through the WISE page, Component Bulletin, and Services Squadron's weekend email.

The E-3A Club will host a Steak Night on Mondays and Fridays. Every third Tuesday of the month, a Scampi Night with two different Scampi menus will enrich our services. We will organize several special dinners at the Club, for example Hunters Dinner, Mongolian BBQ, Spring Dinner and more.

Opening hours Monday-Friday 1100-2200 (bar/coffee/cake), 1700-2000 (dinner); every second Sunday 1100-1400 (brunch, reservations only).

## Bavarian Cellar

The Bavarian cellar will be used as an event location. This means it will only be open by request only. We will ask a fee for using the Bavarian Cellar. All food and beverages must be ordered from the Food Services Section. Guests can host a function/party at the Bavarian cellar with or without personnel services. Holding an event without service will require a higher rental fee, while an event with service will require a higher price for beverages.

Opening hours: By request only.

## Red Lion

The Red Lion will be open every Wednesday as a special bar. Opening hours 1600-2200.



## In Memoriam

We deeply regret to announce the death of First Lieutenant Wolfgang Preuth on 11 January 2010 after a long and serious illness.

1Lt. Preuth arrived at the E-3A Component in October 1991 and served as an Air Traffic Controller within the Airfield Services Squadron. Through his dedication to his work and the great responsibility he took during his duties as a Watch Supervisor on the Tower or at the Radar Unit he was well respected by his comrades and supervisors. His understanding and patience with young trainees was highly appreciated.

He was respected, liked by everyone, and always willing to help his comrades and colleagues. Everyone who had the pleasure of knowing and working with Wolfgang will surely miss him.

Despite the long fight against his illness Wolfgang was determined to return to duty but unfortunately he didn't reach his goal. Only 47 years old he has gone too early.

The Component community extends its deepest sympathy to Wolfgang's wife Rita and their two children Florian and Katja.

Werner Nemetschek  
Colonel DEUAF  
Senior National Representative Germany



*Lt. Gen. Gilmary Michael Hostage III (right), Commander U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Southwest Asia visited the E-3A Component on 18 January. NAEW&CF Commander Maj. Gen. Stephen Schmidt accompanied Lt. Gen. Hostage during his visit which included an E-3A walk-through and Flight Simulator demonstration. As an active command pilot Lt. Gen. Hostage was very interested in taking a closer look at the AWACS cockpit together with Aircraft Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Regner.*



Volume 26, No. 2 29 January 2010

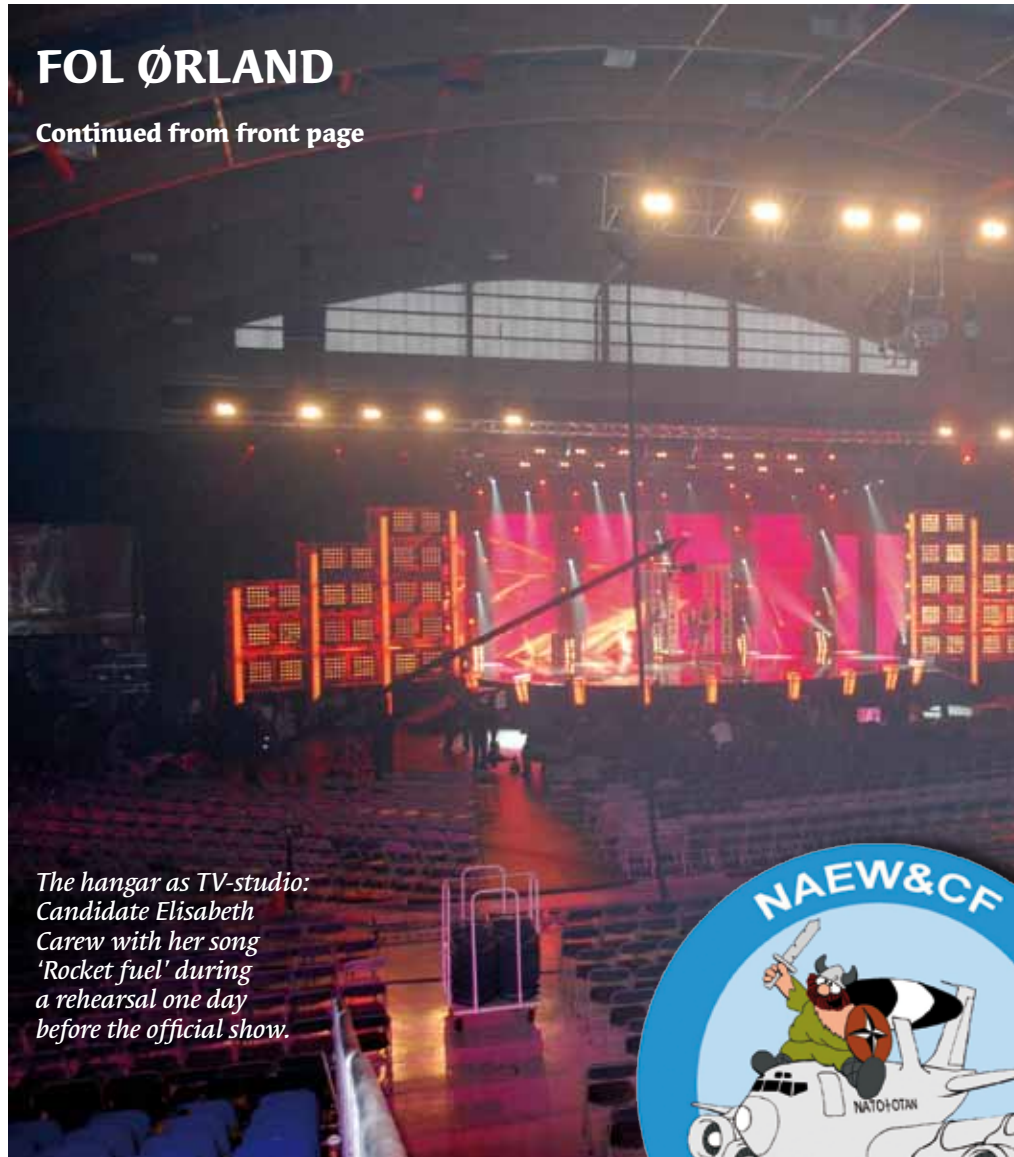
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# FOL ØRLAND

Continued from front page



The hangar gives shelter to NATO AWACS.

The hangar as TV-studio: Candidate Elisabeth Carew with her song 'Rocket fuel' during a rehearsal one day before the official show.



**Patch**

Capt. Knut Varum, one of the FOL's Crew Chiefs, has artistic skills too. In 2007, he redesigned the FOL's patch: A Viking sitting on the fuselage of the AWACS ready to defend. He is even prouder of an airbrush painting he made on an F-16, showing a tiger in 3-D; that F-16 is currently stationed at Bodø Air Base in Norway.

Backstage there were quite a lot of transformations too. The FOL's office spaces that normally support AWACS flight operations were changed into artists' make-up and dressing rooms and TV production rooms. Seven performers competed for a place in the finals. The winners Maria Haukaas Storeng with "Make my Day" and the Heavy Metal band

Keep of Kalessin with "Dragontower" will go to the national final. That winner will represent Norway in the European song festival, which Norway is hosting this year.

The live broadcast TV show was sold out and was watched by almost one million viewers, that's 20 percent of the total Norwegian population.

## CSA Hail and Farewell

**At the Civilian Staff Association's fourth Quarterly Hail and Farewell event of 2009, Component Commander Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky presented E-3A Component Certificates of Appreciation to two recent retirees and two staff members who have achieved 25 years of service to NATO.**

**Mr. Andrew Lee** joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing on 1 October 1984 as a Pneudraulics Specialist. In 2003 he was selected for the post of Senior Technician (Fuselage), where he continues to serve the Component.

**Mr. Peter Stredder** joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing on 7 June 1982 as an Electrical Systems Specialist. From 2003 onwards he served in the Electrics/ECS Shop, from which he retired on 1 July 2009.

**Mr. Antonius van Burik** joined the E-3A Component Base Support Wing on 19 April 1982 as Chief Clerk

in the Clubs Accounting Office. In 2003 he became Assistant (Club Management) and retired from that post on 1 October 2009.

**Mr. Paul Baker** joined the E-3A Component on 9 October

1984 as a Translator, first in the Component Headquarters and then in Base Support Wing. He became a Senior Translator in 2003. In addition to his duties in that post he is now Secretary of the CSA Staff Committee.



From left to right: Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, Mr. Andrew Lee, Mr. Peter Stredder, Mr. Antonius van Burik, Mr. Paul Baker, Mr. Mark Beauchamp.

Photo: Andrea Hohenforst



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**This week, 27 January, it was 65 years ago that the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was liberated. In 2009 1.3 million persons visited the museum and memorial, a record. Among them members of the E-3A Component.**

Text and photos  
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

A group of twenty Squadron 2 crewmembers and maintenance personnel on deployment to Poland to train with the Polish Air Force were surely not the first visitors to enter the Auschwitz site, but it is a moving experience for all who enter. So far more than 30 million people from all parts of the world have visited the museum and memorial. As Polish professor Władysław Bartoszewski, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and camp survivor, said: "Millions of people around the world know what Auschwitz was, but it is essential that we retain in our minds and our memories the awareness that it is humans who decide whether such a tragedy ever takes place again. This was the work of humans, and it is humans alone who can prevent any such recurrence."

With such a historical site nearby it was an obvious decision for deployment commander Maj. Ed Roberds to organise the visit. "I believe the events that took place at this camp affected each nation currently in NATO. We all learned about it in school, and this visit provides the chance to experience this aspect of European history. I really believe that by visiting Auschwitz, we can better understand why we need to prevent anything like this ever happening again. Especially for people in the military, it is a way of reminding us why we do what we do and that we always need to be professionals in what we do. The visit itself was very humbling and it really made all the things we complain about on a daily basis seem trivial."

In 1979, the site of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was added to the UNESCO International

List of World Heritage Sites. The site, which lies near Krakow, consists of two former camps: Auschwitz I, a former Polish army garrison, and Auschwitz II-Birkenau, three kilometres away. Both places were taken over by the German occupying forces in mid-1940 in the suburbs of Oświęcim. Auschwitz I was a concentration camp for prisoners of various nationalities. Birkenau was the largest centre for the mass extermination of European Jews. Throughout the world, the place has become a symbol of terror, genocide and the Holocaust.

### Auschwitz I

It is horrifying to think that 78 years ago, on the same road we are walking today, thousands of prisoners were marched out of the camp each day to perform long hours of slave labour. In the evening they returned exhausted, bringing with them the corpses of those who had died. To help prisoners keep in step as they went to and from work, the camp orchestra had to play marches while they filed past, because this made it easier to count them.

Most of the blocks contain an exhibition showing the living conditions 'offered' to the prisoners. People detained in the camp died as a result of torturous hard labour, hunger, disease, experiments, executions and a range of punishments and torture. Photographs of prisoners who died there are displayed on the walls of the hallways.

The harsh working conditions, combined with poor nutrition and bad hygiene, led to high death rates among the prisoners. Block 11 was the 'prison within the prison', where violators of the numerous rules were punished. Some prisoners were made to spend the nights in 'standing cells',



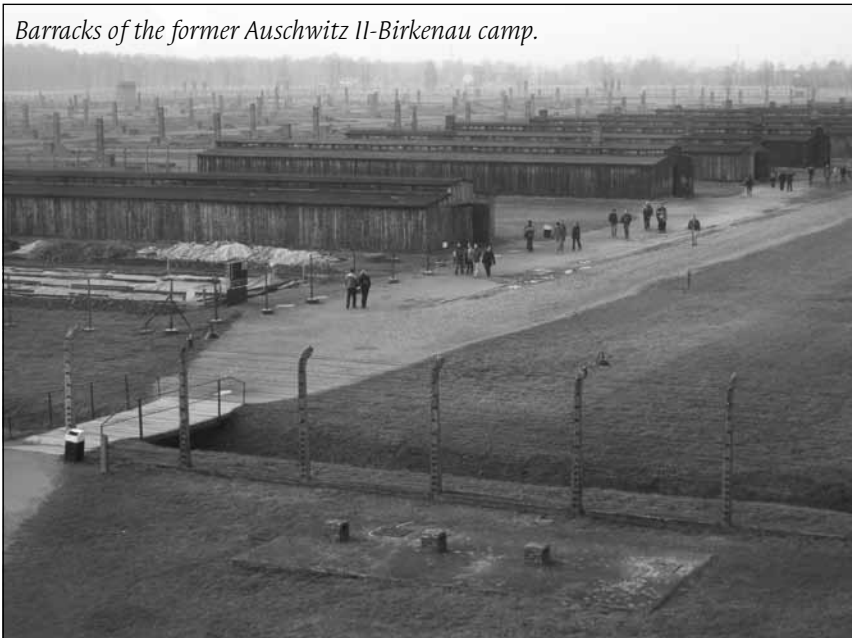
# Remember the show respect for

which were about 1.5 square metres in size. Four men would be placed in these cells; they could do nothing but stand, and were forced during the day to work with the other prisoners.

In the basement were the starvation cells. Prisoners incarcerated there

were given neither food nor water until they were dead. The Polish monk Maksymilian Maria Kolbe died in the cellar of that block. It was he who exchanged places to save a prisoner, putting himself into a group of those sentenced to death by starvation. Also in the basement were the 'dark cells',

*Barracks of the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp.*



*The Wall of Death where thousands of people were shot.*

# their suffering, or their memory



*Birkenau: the final destination of hundreds of thousands of deportees.*

which had only a very tiny window and a solid door. Prisoners locked in these cells would gradually suffocate as they used up all of the oxygen.

For pilot Lt. Col. Frank Bareither, like most of the Squadron 2 crew, this was the first time he visited

Auschwitz. "In the past I had the opportunity to visit Dachau, another camp," he mentioned. "But that one was smaller than Auschwitz. The size of the Auschwitz site gave me much more negative impressions... hard to describe. All the time I asked myself, how could this all occur? And could this happen again in the future? At that time, many people in the direct vicinity of the two camps ignored everything that happened there. But nowadays, due to Internet technology, I think and assume, and hope, that people are more aware of what is happening in the world. That they have a better understanding and react in a totally different way."

In the courtyard next to Block 11 is the 'Wall of Death'. Most of those executed here were Polish political prisoners, especially leaders and members of clandestine organisations and people who had helped escapees or facilitated contacts with the outside world. "When you enter the courtyard, cold sweat runs down your back," Bareither said. "Your breath is taken away when you realise that



*Signs along the route tell the story of the past.*

people like us entered the yard in the past, and never walked out of it again."

If a Polish prisoner escaped, that person's family members were arrested and sent to Auschwitz. So that other prisoners would be aware of this policy, these family members were made to stand under a sign announcing the reason for their arrest and stating that they would remain in the camp until the fugitive was found. One of the many torments of life was the daily roll-call. The entire population of thousands of prisoners had to stand at attention during the roll-calls held on the central square. Later, when new buildings were constructed over the original roll-call area, the prisoners were lined up on the camp streets in front of the blocks. The roll-calls often lasted several hours, and sometimes twelve hours or longer.

After the liberation, thousands of objects belonging to Jews deported for extermination were found in the camp and its environs. Large displays in the Auschwitz I blocks show the original belongings of deportees: hundreds of suitcases with names and addresses, Jewish prayer shawls, artificial limbs, children's clothes, people's spectacles, shoes, bowls and other items. The museum also exhibits one of the most shocking images of crime: almost 2 tons of hair shaven from victims.

### Auschwitz II – Birkenau

In consideration of the fact that Birkenau was the place where most of the Auschwitz victims were murdered, it was decided not to create a museum exhibition there and to leave the site untouched.

In the first half of 1942 the two gas chambers became operational. By mid-1942 the infamous 'selections' started. Immediately after getting off the train, Jews were ordered to line up in two columns, one of women and children and the other of men. On the ramp the strong and healthy were separated from the old, the sick and the children. People selected as fit were sent to the camp. The others, usually 70 to 75 percent of the new arrivals, were sent to be murdered in the gas chambers.

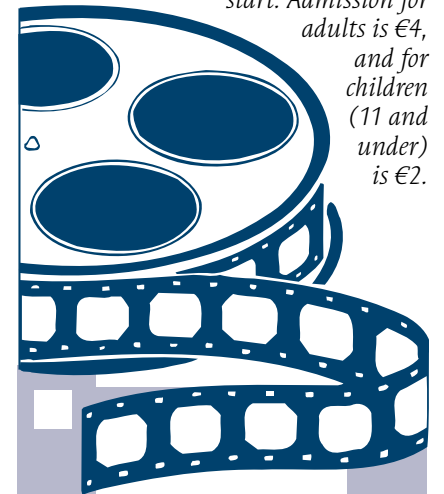
It is estimated that approximately 1.1 million people were murdered there. The entire Auschwitz site is regarded as one of the starkest and most powerful warnings to humanity.

As Professor Władysław Bartoszewski said: "Auschwitz is the world's largest ever cemetery without graves, where it is impossible to place a stone or flower to commemorate an individual. It is a cemetery without graves because the corpses have been scattered by the smoke in the sky."

*Ref.: Auschwitz-Birkenau, the past and the present © 2009 Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum*

## JFC HQ Alliance Theatre presents

*The theatre is located in Building #406, JFC HQ Brunssum, the Netherlands. Doors open 30 minutes prior to film start. Admission for adults is €4, and for children (11 and under) is €2.*



**Cirque du Freak (PG)**  
Friday, 29 January, 1930  
John C Reilly,  
Ken Watanabe

**Astro Boy (PG)**  
Saturday, 30 January, 1600  
Kristen Bell,  
Nicolas Cage

**2012 (PG-13)**  
Saturday, 30 January, 1900  
John Cusack,  
Amanda Peet

**Ninja Assassin (R)**  
Friday, 5 February, 1930  
Naomie Harris,  
Ben Miles

**Old Dogs (PG)**  
Saturday, 6 February, 1600  
John Travolta,  
Robin Williams

**Armored (PG-13)**  
Saturday, 6 February, 1900  
Matt Dillon,  
Jean Reno

**The Blind Side (PG-13)**  
Friday, 12 February, 1930  
Sandra Bullock,  
Quinton Aaron



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# What exactly is Carnival?

By Alina Alexander

**When thinking of Carnival, people mostly imagine colourful fancy dress, processions and pop music, but where exactly did it come from and what is its purpose?**

In Germany, Carnival is also called Fastnacht, Fasching or the Fifth Season. The original festivals of this kind took place in Greek and Roman times. A man was chosen out of the crowd to be 'king', and nowadays he is called Faschingsprinz (Prince Carnival). His election was celebrated with a parade and the wearing of masks, as some people say, to scare away demons.

Carnival is not just a secular festival; it is also significant to many Christians because it is celebrated before the forty-day season of Lent. The most notable Carnival events take place in the week before Ash Wednesday, which precedes the sixth (some people say seventh) Sunday before Easter. Carnival is the last opportunity

to party, so people just let themselves go.

The name Carnival is said to come from the Latin words carne vale, which means 'Farewell to meat' because Lent, which has existed since the 4th century, is a period of abstinence in preparation for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, a priest places an ash cross on the foreheads of participants, and this means that their sins of the past are forgiven.

Carnival in its present form has existed for about 180 years, and the way it is celebrated is different in every region in Germany, although it begins officially on St. Martin's Day (Martinstag, also called 'Jeckenzal'), 11 November at 11:11. The biggest and final party is always held on Shrove Monday with big parades. Cologne, Aachen and Bonn are the strongholds of Carnival in Germany. Some regions also have the 'Nubbel' (straw man) that is used as a scapegoat so they do not have to feel guilty about their dissipated behaviour. At the end of Carnival the Nubbel is burned, and with it all of their sins. The Dreigestirn (triumvirate) is a group consisting of a Prince (prince), Jungfrau (virgin) and Bauer (peasant). Carnival clubs often have

their own events featuring various dance groups, Büttendredner (stage performers) and musicians.

Food is also of major importance during Carnival. Candy is thrown from floats during processions, and people eat rich pastry and a lot of meat, but as Friedel Dabeek, member of the Klaischötter Karneval in nearby Süsterseel, says, "The best thing to do after you drink a little alcohol is eat herring and a slice of black bread. The aim is to eat all of the food before Ash Wednesday. Being happy and being with other people is what Carnival means to me. If it is cold outside you just have a drink and make sure you are wearing warm clothes."

Carnival is a festival celebrated all over the world, especially in other popular places such as Rio de Janeiro, Venice, Trinidad & Tobago and New Orleans.

## **Parades in Limburg, the Netherlands (starting around 1330):**

Sunday 7 February, Sittard, Children's parade; Sunday, 14 February, Heerlen, Maastricht, Sittard, Geleen; Monday, 15 February, Roermond, Brunssum, Hoensbroek.

## **Parades in North Rhine Westphalia:**

Thursday, 11 February, Cologne, start 1111 (Chlodwingplatz); Friday, 12 February, Cologne, start 1800; Monday, 15 February, Cologne, start 1030, Aachen, Children's parade, start 1111; Düsseldorf, start 1335.



## **For the last time Altweiberfest at Frisbee Club**

For the 26th and final time 'The Old Ladies party' (Altweiberfest) will be held at the Frisbee Club 11 February. The Club will be open from 1400 until 2400 and the kitchen will be serving snacks from 1400 until 2200. No entrance free.

The international Carnival Association (IKV) from Teveren will pay a visit at 1500 with a 'Tanzmariechen' performance. For your entertainment, the music band Ander Kovver and DJ Ronnie will play Carnival and dancing music.

A shuttle bus from the Frisbee Club to Geilenkirchen (train station), Teveren, Gillrath and Niederheid area will be available starting at 1700.

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