



Highway Patrol Communiqué - 13 March 2017

Dear Highway Patrol Friends & Colleagues,

I sincerely hope that the ensuing period since my last email communique has brought only good things to you and those that you hold dear. At this stage of my life, I am painfully aware of the trials and tribulations that age and health can bring. My last search for details of members that were listed on our membership roster (December, 2016) revealed that a number of individuals were sadly deceased. Unfortunately, we never receive notice regarding many of our former members.

My current Membership Roster (alphabetized) presently contains contact information for only 127 *known* former members of our HP group. Regrettably, there has been no personal contact with many of those that are still listed. We are most likely down to approximately twelve (12) percent of our original total combined unit strength of possibly 1072 members. Even more appalling is the fact that I currently have *only* 39 valid email addresses for the group, thus many of our members will never receive information, updates, etc.

I know how much pleasure that I have enjoyed getting together and reminiscing. Others have also expressed these sentiments regarding seeing and/or hearing from former comrades and colleagues. We have formerly had the opportunity of holding twenty previous sponsored reunions. Although attendance and some interest has waned; the fact that we will no longer be receiving our regular newsletter (The White Mice), coupled with no longer holding association sponsored reunions should not stop us from keeping in touch with each other. A few individuals expressed hope that we might, on occasion, be able to still gather and meet.

I provided full details on our website reunion page, <http://www.62hp.org/reunion.htm>. Since that last update (24 December 2016) no one has come forth to set anything up make suggestions or to even make any comment. I have also not had any requests for the contact list or email list. Perhaps it is all a moot point, and a diminished craving to keep in touch, or to meet is no longer of interest to many. That said, I still intend to keep those interested as up-to-date as I can. The web page will continue to be updated, and it is presently funded for the next several years thanks to several individuals (noted in the Webmaster comments and acknowledgements page, <http://www.62hp.org/webmaster.htm>).

My wife and I will shortly celebrate her birthday followed the next month by our 52nd anniversary. Her favorite spot – an hour and-a-half journey from our home in Northern Virginia (just outside of Washington, D.C.) is a unique establishment, [The Bavarian Inn](#). Located in historic [Shepherdstown, West Virginia](#). We have visited there a variety of times over the years, both staying for mini-vacations, as well as just driving up for lunch or dinner. The [cuisine](#) is mostly German (and other European) as well as traditional American variety.

The [atmosphere](#) is great with accommodations in various chalets and a other buildings looking very traditional and Southern German. There are a great many attractions in the area including [casinos](#), horse racing, civil war battlefields (Sharpsburg in particular) vineyards, antiquing, etc.

Usually, I just prefer to sit back and enjoy the immediate surroundings, the town, or a short drive into the surrounding area. We have enjoyed attending Oktoberfest's in late September, with bands, dancers, festival atmosphere, and thousands of visitors flocking in from all over. The place is usually booked far in advance. I am including several web links for your interest. I will try to see if there is any time in the fall when we might be able to get a few rooms held, IF anyone would like to gather and perhaps hold another of our HP meetings.

I have thought of mentioning this location before, however, it is not as convenient to get to as some places we have visited. Now that our room needs are smaller, they might be able to accommodate us. They also may not, as their accommodations are usually in high demand, and their prices are not necessarily inexpensive. I will report later about my findings. Check out the above highlighted links. [IAD](#) - [Dulles International Airport](#) is approximately 36.2 miles from Shepherdstown.

This Army "Highway Patrol" vehicle predates our 62nd HP unit by a few years.



783rd MP Battalion - WW II.

Yes, it is from a slightly earlier era, and a bit different geographic area.

Another Highway Patrol story.

Word of the Week - Geisterfahrer.

Driving on the wrong side of the road is dangerous, and can even be deadly. In German, drivers who are going in the wrong direction are called Geisterfahrer, which means "ghost drivers."



There is no English equivalent of the word Geisterfahrer, but it can describe an incompetent person who mistakenly went the wrong way, or a risky driver who may have done so on purpose. In many cases, it is simply a dangerous mistake. One-way street signs and do-not-enter signs are posted across Germany to stop "ghost drivers", but they are not always effective: throughout Germany, there are about five recorded instances of Geisterfahrer each day (which comes out to approximately 1,800 a year), according to FOCUS Online. In 2012, there were 1,914 recorded Geisterfahrer in Germany.

Some highways have more "ghost drivers" than others, and the German government has tried to tackle this problem by increasing its number of street signs in recent years. In some areas, the size of these signs has also been increased.

This story was copied verbatim from a previously published (Jul 18, 2014) *Word of the Week* article. These articles appear each week in *The Week In Germany* (TWIG), a weekly online publication of the Germany Embassy. <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html>

Larry



[Webmaster - 62HP.org](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Startseite.html)

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