

Switch to freedom: A hijacked train dashing through the Czech-German border in 1951



(Graphics: *rijo*)

Grafenwohr Sub-Post Host to Passengers of Czech Train. Nurnberg (NMP PIO)

The town of Selb, within the limits of Nurnberg Military Post, was the final goal of a train-load of over 100 Czechoslovakians who were the unknowing passengers on a train operated by a group of railroad employees which pierced the Iron Curtain in a dash for freedom and sanctuary in West Germany.

The train was routed over an unused section of track into Germany from its regular run between Asch and Eger in Czechoslovakia by a well-calculated scheme. The train sped over the track with previously unlocked switches and past the surprised border guards who did not fire a shot.

The entire group of passengers spent a night and a day as guests of Grafenwohr Sub-Post where they were afforded a glimpse of living conditions outside the Iron Curtain. They were given three excellent meals, furnished sleeping quarters, toilet articles, and plenty of hot water. They also had the use of Special Services athletic and entertainment equipment to while away the time waiting for their return to their homeland.

By the time the arrangements were made for the return, the group deciding to stay had increased to 34, including several children.

The returnees were taken to the border in Army buses after expressing their thanks for their treatment here.

Source: The Nurnberg Post (Nurnberg Military Post), Vol. 4 No. 43, Friday, September 21, 1951, p. 1.

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