



British Embassy
Berlin

Press Kit

12 August 2016

**Visit by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, to Duesseldorf
on 23 August 2016**



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Press Release Announcing the Visit

Tuesday 9th August 2016

The Duke of Cambridge to visit Dusseldorf Dusseldorf, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany Tuesday 23rd August 2016

The Duke of Cambridge, at the request of Her Majesty's Government, will visit Dusseldorf on Tuesday 23rd August to attend a series of events honouring the role of British Forces Germany (BFG), and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). During the visit, His Royal Highness will see a BFG military parade with NRW Minister President Hannelore Kraft, meet BFG personnel at a reception, and attend a 70th anniversary gala alongside Chancellor Angela Merkel.

NRW was established on 23rd August 1946 by the British Military Government, following the end of the Second World War. For almost 70 years, a large British military presence has remained in the region – known as British Forces Germany – playing a vital role during the Cold War and in the reconstruction of its area of occupation. The strong links between NRW and Britain remain today, with approximately 27,000 British citizens living in the state, and 345 British firms basing their companies there, including BP and Vodafone.

The events of the 23rd August in Dusseldorf will celebrate both the historic and current ties between NRW and Britain. To commemorate Britain's military contribution, The Duke will see NRW Minister President Hannelore Kraft present the Fahnenband, the Federal state's highest military honour, to the 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade, in acknowledgment of their service to the defence of Germany. Following the parade, His Royal Highness will attend a reception in Dusseldorf's *NRW Forum*, where he'll meet members of the Brigade and their families.

In the evening, the state will host a 70th anniversary gala in the city's *Tonhalle*, with musical performances and short films celebrating the history of the NRW state. The Duke, alongside Chancellor Angela Merkel and NRW Minister President Kraft, will deliver a speech during the ceremony. Prior to the start of the anniversary gala, His Royal Highness will briefly meet with the Chancellor.

Media representatives can obtain accreditation for the Fahnenband presentation ceremony by emailing presse@stk.nrw.de. To become accredited for the NRW 70th Anniversary Gala, please visit <http://www.akkreditierung.nrw.de/stk/index.php> (username: NRW70, password: Tonhalle). **The deadline for all applications is 16 August 2016, 17:00.**



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HRH The Duke of Cambridge

Biography

The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) is the second in line to the throne and the elder son of The Prince of Wales and Diana, Princess of Wales. His Royal Highness is married to The Duchess of Cambridge, Catherine, with whom he has two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte. The family's official residence is Kensington Palace, but Their Royal Highnesses also spend part of the year living on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk.

The Duke of Cambridge works as an Air Ambulance Pilot for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, in addition to undertaking a number of charitable activities and projects, and carrying out public duties in support of The Queen.

The Duke of Cambridge was born on 21 June 1982 at St Mary's Hospital, London and on 4 August 1982 was christened Prince William Arthur Philip Louis.

Prince William took his A Levels at Eton College in 2000 and went on to a four-year Master of Arts degree course at St. Andrews University in Scotland in September 2001. The Duke graduated in June 2005 with a Master of Arts (Honours) in Geography after four years of study.

Following university, The Duke joined the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as an Officer Cadet. After completing his 44-week training course, he was commissioned as an Army Officer in December 2006 and joined the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals) as a Second Lieutenant. A year later, he was promoted to rank of Lieutenant. Flight Lieutenant Wales, as he was known in the RAF, joined C Flight, 22 Squadron at RAF Valley in Anglesey in September 2010 as a Search and Rescue Pilot and in the following three years carried out 156 search and rescue operations, undertook a routine operational deployment to the Falkland Islands, and qualified as an operational Captain. After leaving operational duties with the Armed Forces, The Duke retrained to become an Air Ambulance Pilot.

The Duke of Cambridge is hugely inspired by the example of duty and leadership of his grandmother, The Queen and his father, The Prince of Wales. He works in support of The Queen and the Royal Family through his programme of charitable work, Royal duties, and carrying out engagements both in the UK and overseas.

For further information on The Duke, please visit www.royal.uk/the-duke-of-cambridge

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Partners on the World Stage

The British-German relationship today

International Affairs: The UK and Germany are both members of the G7, G20, OSCE, and NATO and work closely together on a wide range of international issues. These include our response to Russia's failure to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and tackling global environmental issues like climate change. Germany and the UK are working together to coordinate military operational activity in the Mediterranean, Africa, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The UK and Germany are close partners in tackling the threat from Islamic State militants and are among the largest contributors of humanitarian aid to the victims of the Syrian civil war. Both countries cooperate with other E3+3 countries in the nuclear negotiation with Iran.

The UK's future relationship with the EU is still to be determined following the British referendum to leave the EU. However, the UK is not leaving Europe and will want the strongest possible economic links with our European neighbours. Germany therefore remains a key partner for the UK, as demonstrated by the fact that the new Prime Minister's first overseas visit was to Berlin to meet Chancellor Merkel.

Tourism: Almost 2.4 million Britons traveled to Germany last year. The British are the largest visitor group to the capital, Berlin: Around 280,000 British tourists visited the city in the first six months of 2016 – 10% more than during the same period last year. Meanwhile, more than 3.2 million Germans visited Britain in 2015.

A Shared History: Britain and Germany's shared history began over one thousand years ago with the arrival of the Angles and Saxons from northern Germany, and expanded through maritime trade links between the Hanseatic cities and English ports from the 12th century. In the 18th century, Britain and Germany were bound even closer together with the union of the crowns of Hanover and Great Britain, which lasted 123 years and provided five British kings. The Duke of York attended the 300th anniversary celebrations of the Union in Hanover in 2014. The first half of the 20th century was a dark period in the British-German relationship. But the end of the Second World War 70 years ago ushered in a new alliance between the UK and Germany. Precipitated by the Cold War, the role of British troops in Germany quickly changed from one of occupier to protector, with British forces playing a key role in the Berlin Airlift. Towns and cities across Britain and Germany forged twinning programmes, with the partnership between Coventry and Dresden remaining the ultimate symbol of British-German reconciliation. The 2006 FIFA World Cup was a chance for British people to discover a modern, diverse Germany by visiting or as reflected in its national team. A BBC poll of 2013 found Germany to be the most popular country in the world among British people.



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North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) was created by the British Military Government in August 1946.

“Operation Marriage” merged the regions of North Rhine, part of the largely Catholic Rhineland, and the largely Protestant Westphalia. The close British connection with NRW endured, not least because a large British military presence remained in the region for decades.

Duesseldorf-Reading was the first town twinning established after World War II and will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2017.

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British Forces in Germany and NRW

The 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade and the Fahnenband

The British Army of the Rhine, the United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) and British Forces Germany collectively make up the British Army's longest and largest permanent overseas operating base. Arriving as conquerors and occupiers, becoming allies and protectors, living as guests, and departing as friends. At its peak, the British component of up to 200,000 people – including military personnel, civilian support and families – were based in Germany. Around 75% of these were part of or directly supporting the British Army of the Rhine. Over almost 75 years, British Service personnel have lived, worked and trained in Germany, many of whom have married into and become part of the local communities in which they have lived.

British troops have been stationed in Germany since the end of the Second World War, initially as part of the Allied occupying forces and subsequently in support of the defence of North-West Europe as NATO Allies. The British Military played a vital role reconstructing its area of occupation, helping build the foundations to create multi-billion Euro global companies like Volkswagen and internationally renowned media publications like DER SPIEGEL. After the end of the Cold War more than 60,000 British Forces remained, with the support of the German Government and State authorities, as part of NATO's evolving strategic doctrine. The British Army on the Rhine became the United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) and finally British Forces Germany. Numbers have gradually reduced. In 2010, the UK Government decided to withdraw all remaining troops by 2020. By the end of summer 2016, around 9,000 British military personnel, civilians and their families will remain in Germany, mainly based in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Rebasing will bring to an end more than 70 years of British Forces living as part of local communities in Western Germany. But links between the British Armed Forces and Germany will remain strong in the form of a continued partnership. There will be combined training, equipment bases, exchange officers, and co-ordination of operational deployments in Afghanistan, Northern Iraq, Africa and Libya. The British Army will continue to use training areas in Germany, and keep some of its operational equipment here beyond 2020. The British Defence Staff of the British Embassy in Berlin will maintain and develop the excellent links between our two Armed Forces.

The **20th Armoured Infantry Brigade** was formed from yeomanry regiments in 1939 in East Anglia. It has been based in Germany since 1951 and will remain in the country until 2019. Since 2001, its Headquarters have been located in Sennelager in Paderborn. Brigadier Mike Elviss assumed Command in Summer 2016. The Brigade has previously deployed to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia (1995-1997), Iraq (2004, 2006 and 2008) and Afghanistan (2014). In both Iraq and Afghanistan the Brigade became the last British combat elements serving at the end of the UK's combat missions there. Under the British Army's new Army 2020 structure, the Brigade reformed to become 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade in January 2015, and re-subordinated to 3rd (UK) Division. The Brigade includes two



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cavalry regiments and three infantry battalions. In 2016, the Brigade began its high joint readiness training in preparation for becoming NATO's lead for Very High Readiness Task Force (Land) in 2017.

The **Fahnenband** is the highest German honour awarded to military units or organisations by the Federal President (federal Fahnenband) or the Minister Presidents of the federal states (state Fahnenband), in honour of a special achievement or event. It is a narrow stitched ribbon fixed as a decoration to the military unit's colours or pennant. In recent years the NRW state Fahnenband has been presented to the Landeskommmando North Rhine-Westphalia (a Bundeswehr formation) and the German /Netherlands Corps Headquarters based in Munster. The presentation on 23 August of the NRW Fahnenband to the 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade is only the second time this state Fahnenband has been presented to a British unit. The Brigade will be honoured for their service and contribution to the defence of Germany during the 'Cold War', for good causes, being good neighbours and encouraging cultural links in NRW.

Background information on the Parade:

The soldiers on Parade forming the Honour Guard are from the 1st Battalion Princess of Wales Royal Regiment based in Barker Barracks Paderborn. The Battalion has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan numerous times and are currently part of NATO's Vanguard Joint Taskforce ready to deploy at extremely short notice.

The Pennant Party comprises two Officers and two Senior Non Commissioned Officers from the staff of Headquarters 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade.

The musical accompaniment is being provided by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. The Band has served 15 monarchs over 325 years and been present at all the major royal occasions. The Director of Music for the Band of the Grenadier Guards is Maj Stredwick, the youngest ever Director of Music in the Corps of Army Musicians.

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The German-British Economic Relationship

The United Kingdom and Germany are close trade and investment partners. The UK is Germany's largest export market for goods and services in Europe and in global terms second only to the United States. In fact, the UK imports almost as many goods and services from Germany as it does from the Americas as a whole. Germany, on the other hand, is the UK's second largest trading partner worldwide after the US. More than 10% of all UK goods exports go to Germany. In the last four years, exports of UK services to Germany have grown between 3 and 9% annually from €17.9 billion in 2011 to €22.7 billion in 2015. In point of fact, the UK exports more goods to one single region of Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), than to India as a whole.

The close economic relations between both countries are also reflected in the many UK companies which are already successfully doing business in Germany, either as investors or as exporters. There are currently around 1,400 British companies in Germany such as Vodafone, BP, Dyson, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), National Express, and Lloyds Insurers. A new addition is ao - an online retailer for household appliances who has just received the NRW.INVEST AWARD 2016. In fact, almost every 10th foreign company in Germany is British, employing 237,000 people. Overall, British FDI in Germany amounts to €25 billion.

Conversely about 2,200 German companies have branches in the United Kingdom, employing a total of around 358,000 workers. This means that German company branches employ more than one per cent of the UK's total workforce. Jointly, these companies generate a turnover of €208 billion – more than in any other European country. In 2014, Germany was the second most important European source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the UK. The total German FDI in the UK is worth €50.9 billion, generating total earnings of €6.7 billion in 2014. German companies active in the UK include ALDI, BASF, BMW, Bosch, Deutsche Telekom, E.ON, Lidl, RWE, and Siemens.

In terms of trade and investment, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is the most significant German region for the UK. 345 British companies in NRW employ 61,000 people and generated a turnover of €41.8 billion in 2014. The UK exports more goods to NRW than to India as a whole. The UK is in fact the third biggest investor in NRW making up 6.2% of the local DI, following France (8%) and the Netherlands (18.1%).



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UK's trade and investment strategy post EU Referendum

On 23 June 2016 the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Given the strong trade and investment relationship between the UK and Germany, businesses in Germany have been watching closely. The new UK Government will now work towards Britain's future relationship with the EU and consequently Germany. All efforts are focused on pursuing the strongest possible links with the UK's European neighbours as well as maintaining the established strong trade and investment relationship with Germany. For now the fundamental facts remain unchanged: the UK is still a member of the European Union and a member of the Single Market. That will not change overnight.

The UK is – and always will be – open for business. The UK is the world's fifth largest economy and was the fastest growing economy in the G7 in 2015. It remains a great place to do business and an attractive investment destination, with its skilled workforce, competitive tax, and good regulatory environment as well as a strong R&D base. GSK, for example, has recently announced significant new investments worth £275 million at three of its manufacturing sites in the UK to boost production and support delivery of its latest innovative respiratory and large molecule biological medicines ([GSK press release](#)). Additionally, the City of London remains an important international Financial Services Centre.

The recent creation of the [Department for International Trade](#) (DIT) furthermore reflects the importance of trade and investment to the new Government. UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the Government Department which helps UK-based companies succeed globally and assists overseas companies to bring investment to the UK, will be integrated into the DIT to assure a whole of government approach. Teams based in Berlin, Dusseldorf, and Munich are continuously closely in touch with businesses and are maintaining relationships with partners in Germany such as the [British Chamber of Commerce in Germany](#), [Germany Trade and Invest](#), the [IHK's](#), [NRW Invest](#) and [German trade fair organisations](#) to pursue business opportunities.

Aiming to inspire and support 100,000 additional UK exporters to sell their goods and services overseas by 2020, the government also offers a free online service to generate export opportunities. German companies can publish their need for specific products or services and be matched with UK businesses that are keen on exporting. Key sectors for the German market are Automotive, Chemicals, Consumer / E-Commerce, Defence & Security, Energy (Renewables, Offshore Wind etc.), Food & Drink, Life Sciences, and Nuclear Decommissioning.

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