

## Military bids fond farewell to Lahr Lord Mayor

Captain Marsha Dorge, writing in the *Sentinel*, 1982/2, reports that in the 15 years since the forces established a Canadian community in Lahr, Germany, there have been eight base commanders. Until recently, there has been only one Oberbürgermeister.

An Oberbürgermeister, she explains, is a lord mayor, who, as the only municipal political chief executive truly elected by the German people, is extremely important. Working with the municipal council, he is responsible for the administration of the city.

### Monthly meetings

Lahr's Oberbürgermeister is also important to the Canadian military establishment there. Monthly meetings between the Oberbürgermeister and Lahr's base commander are the key to the resolution of any difficulties resulting from the stationing of a large Canadian garrison in a foreign country. Their interpersonal relationship is a vital link in German-Canadian co-operation.

To thousands of Canadians who have been stationed in the Black Forest city, Oberbürgermeister has always meant Dr. Philipp Brucker, who retired recently after 20 years in the executive post.

General Ramsey Withers, Chief of Defence Staff and a former commander of Canadian Forces Europe, was among

70 guests who attended a farewell dinner in Dr. Brucker's honour at Canadian Forces Base Lahr.

On behalf of the Governor General, General Withers thanked Dr. Brucker for his assistance and friendship to the Canadian Forces — a friendship which has fostered an abiding harmony between Canadians and the people of Lahr.

The gathering, referred to by General Withers as "a well-established, very special international community", included Klaus Goldschlag, Canada's Ambassador to Germany, Lieutenant General Donald Laubman, as former commander of the First Canadian Air Division and Canadian Forces Europe, previous base commanders, former commanders of the Canadian army brigade and air group, and a number of Dr. Brucker's former colleagues.

In his remarks to the gathering, Dr. Brucker said he had pledged, to assist in the task of getting people to know one another better across national boundaries and to assist in giving peace a chance. The stationing of the Canadian garrison in Lahr, he said, gave him the opportunity to carry out his wish.

Of Canadian hospitality and humanity shown to him and his family during his friendship with Canadians in Lahr, he said, "Such things reach out far beyond NATO treaties and politics".



A distinguished group of former Air Division and Canadian Forces Europe commanders recently said farewell to Dr. Philipp Brucker (centre) in Lahr. (Left to right): Major General François Richard, Commander Canadian Forces Europe; Major General (retired) James Hanna; Lieutenant General Charles Belzile, Commander Mobile Command; Dr. Brucker; General Ramsey Withers, Chief of Defence Staff; Lieutenant General (retired) Duncan McAlpine; and Lieutenant General (retired) Donald Laubman.

## Canada-Malta insurance pact

A bilateral foreign investment insurance agreement, designed to foster increased trade and investment between Canada and Malta, was signed recently in Valletta by Canada's High Commissioner to Malta J.E. Ghislain Hardy and the Acting Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta Edwin A. Causon.

The agreement facilitates insurance of investments under the Export Development Corporation's investment insurance program which insures Canadian investors against loss of their overseas investments by reason of political actions in the host country.

Canada has signed 30 similar agreements with countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific. Negotiations continue with 16 other nations.

## Transfusion experts meet in Ottawa

The Council of Europe Expert Committee on Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology met in Ottawa May 17-20 — the first time their committee has met outside Europe.

All 21 nations of the Council of Europe have delegates on the Committee, which this year is celebrating its twentieth anniversary.

The agenda included discussions of histocompatibility, of techniques for freezing bone marrow and for preserving blood cells, and of reports on new developments in blood products and re-agents.

Before a transfusion is made, the blood of both donor and recipient must be cross-matched to make sure the cells of each are compatible. Donor blood is also tested for the presence of infective agents such as hepatitis. Quick and accurate immunological laboratory tests are therefore vital to the success of transfusions.

Blood for transfusions can be kept up to 21 days. Blood keeps longer if frozen but, although technically feasible, it is not economical to freeze large quantities. Researchers are seeking easier ways to preserve blood indefinitely.

Nine Canadian observers were at the meeting. The United States, Finland, the World Health Organization, the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Society of Blood Transfusion and the Order of Malta were also expected to send observers.

Master Corporal Margaret Reid photo