

Nach dem Spiel der Horror

Entgleisung eines Fußballsonderzugs in Belgien am 2. Dezember 1954



Die Katastrophe von Wilsele: Bergen der Opfer



Zahlreiche Helfer und Schaulustige vor der umgestürzten Schnellzugsdampflok

Jahres-Rückblick 1954

 Am 2. Dezember ereignete sich das
 grosse Eisenbahn-Unglück in Löwen (Belgien),
 bei dem deutsche Schlachtenbummler zum
 Ziel England-Deutschland am

Hauptabteilung:	Katastrophen
Untertitel:	Eisenbahnunglücke
Nähere Beschreibung:	2. Dez. Unglücke in Löwen (Belgien) - s. oben -
Erschienen am:	in:
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Ein Pressephoto aus meiner Sammlung für einen Jahresrückblick 1954 gab den Anstoß zu weiterer Recherche. Es gehörte zur „Hauptabteilung: Katastrophen, Untertitel: Eisenbahnunglücke“. Was war an jenem 2. Dezember 1954 in Löwen (Belgien) geschehen?

1954 war das Jahr des „**Wunders von Bern**“. Überraschend gewann die bundesdeutsche Fußballnationalmannschaft die Weltmeisterschaft in der Schweiz gegen die hoch favorisierte Nationalmannschaft Ungarns. Das Endspiel endete mit einem 3:2-Sieg für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Die Spieler um Kapitän Fritz Walter und Bundestrainer Sepp Herberger gingen daraufhin als die „Helden von Bern“ in die deutsche Sportgeschichte ein. Der Titelgewinn löste in Deutschland einen großen Freudentaumel aus. Neun Jahre nach Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs schien der Erfolg ein ganzes Volk aus den Entbehrungen und Depressionen der Nachkriegszeit zu reißen.

Dann erlebte der Überraschungsweltmeister einen tiefen Fall. Im zweiten Halbjahr 1954 standen die **vier Länderspiele gegen Belgien, Frankreich, England und Portugal** auf dem Terminplan. Für den erfahrenen Bundestrainer war klar, daß alle Gegner sich gegen den amtierenden Weltmeister besonders anstrengen würden, um sich mit dem Lorbeer zu schmücken, den aktuellen Titelträger besiegt zu haben. Ohne die verletzten Weltmeister Toni Turek, Horst Eckel, Fritz Walter und Hans Schäfer – sie wurden vertreten durch Fritz Herkenrath, Herbert Erhardt, Ulrich Biesinger und Berni Klodt – verlor Herberger mit der deutschen Nationalmannschaft am 26. September in Brüssel das erste Länderspiel nach dem Titelgewinn mit 0:2 Toren gegen Belgien. Die Spieler waren körperlich wie auch mental weit entfernt von der optimalen Verfassung der Schweizer Wochen. Dies setzte sich auch im folgenden Spiel am 16. Oktober in Hannover gegen Frankreich fort. Das Heimspiel ging mit 1:3 Toren verloren und lediglich die beiden jungen Debütanten Uwe Seeler und Klaus Stürmer vom Hamburger SV konnten als Hoffnungen wahrgenommen werden. Ausgerechnet vor dem Spiel am 1. Dezember in London gegen England kam es noch weit schlimmer: Mit Rahn, Morlock, Fritz Walter und Kubsch traten Fälle von Hepatitis im Kreis der Schweiz-Fahrer auf und die Spieler fielen für Monate aus. So trat Herberger gegen den „alten Lehrmeister“ notgedrungen mit Neulingen an: Gerhard Kaufhold, Michael Pfeiffer, Uwe Seeler (zweites Länderspiel), Jupp Derwall und Alfred Beck. Herkenrath und Gerhard Harpers absolvierten im Tor und als linker Außenläufer erst ihr zweites Länderspiel. Auch das dritte Spiel nach dem Weltmeisterschaftsgewinn verloren die Schützlinge von Bundestrainer Herberger. Die Misere wuchs sich zur schwersten persönlichen Krise in der Laufbahn von Herberger aus.



Am 01.12.1954 spielte England gegen Westdeutschland mit dem Endergebnis 3:1 (1:0) für den Gastgeber. 100.000 Zuschauer, darunter 12.000 Deutsche, erlebten ein internationales Freundschaftsspiel im Londoner Wembley Stadion. Als Schiedsrichter fungierte Vincenzo Orlandini. Trainer für England war Walter Winterbottom, für Deutschland Josef 'Sepp' Herberger. Von den „Berner Helden“ waren nur drei Spieler dabei, ansonsten mußte Herberger auf eine sehr unerfahrene Elf setzen.

Die Tore für England erzielten

Roy Bentley 28 ⚽

Ronnie Allen 48 ⚽

Len Shackleton 79 ⚽

Das Ehrentor für Deutschland erzielte in der 77. Minute: Alfred Beck ⚽

Englische Mannschaft:

Torwart [Bert Williams](#)

Verteidiger [Roger Byrne](#)

Verteidiger [Ron Staniforth](#)

Verteidiger [Billy Wright](#) (Kapitän)

Mittelfeld [Bill Slater](#)

Deutsche Mannschaft:

[Fritz Herkenrath](#)

[Herbert Erhardt](#)

[Werner Kohlmeyer](#)

[Josef Posipal](#) (Kapitän)

[Werner Liebrich](#)

Mittelfeld [Ronnie Allen](#)

Mittelfeld [Roy Bentley](#)

Stürmer [Tom Finney](#)

Stürmer [Stan Matthews](#)

Innenverteidiger [Len Phillips](#)

Innenverteidiger [Len Shackleton](#)

[Uwe Seeler](#)

[Alfred Beck](#)

[Josef Derwall](#)

[Gerhard Harpers](#)

[Gerhard Kaufhold](#)

[Michael Pfeiffer](#)

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

ENGLAND v GERMANY

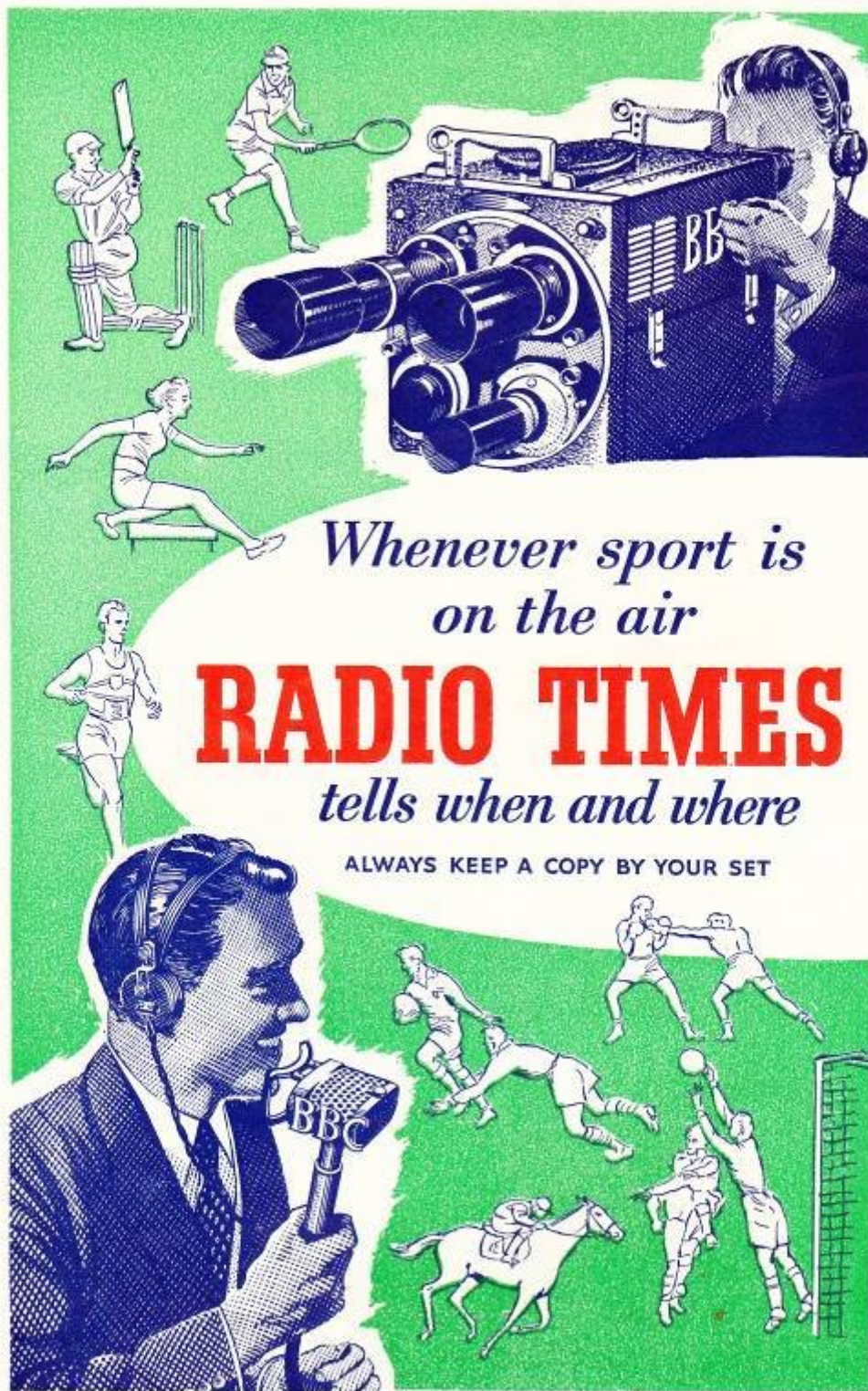
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1954

KICK-OFF 2.0 pm



EMPIRE STADIUM WEMBLEY

Chairman and Managing Director SIR ARTHUR J. ELVIN, MBE
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - ONE SHILLING





*Welcome to our
Distinguished Visitor*

The Rt. Hon. SIR ANTHONY EDEN, K.G.

Robert Anthony Eden, 1. Earl of Avon (*12.06.1897 in Windlestone, Durham; †14.01.1977 in Salisbury, Wiltshire) war ein britischer Politiker (Conservative Party) und dreimal - von 1935 bis 1938, 1940 bis 1945 und 1951 bis 1955 - britischer Außenminister.

A Welcome to our German Guests

FOR the first time in the history of Wembley Stadium we welcome to this famous arena this afternoon a team of German footballers.

Our German guests come with the highest credentials in the realm of Association Football—they are the reigning champions of the world !

We, in Britain, have followed the fortunes of the German footballers since the first matches in the World Cup competition in Switzerland this year and we have the greatest admiration and respect for the players who will to-day face the select of England.

We extend a sincere welcome to the German team and officials and also those thousands of German enthusiasts who have made the journey by land, sea and air to be present at this afternoon's historic match.

We trust that our guests and visitors will return to Germany with pleasant memories of their visit to this country.

Ein Willkommen unseren deutschen Gaesten

WILLKOMMEN im Heimatland des Fussballsports und im Wembley Stadion, dem Sportzentrum des Britischen Empires !

31 Jahre sind vergangen seit diese grosse Sportarena Ihre Tore zum ersten Male oeffnete, um fuer Millionen sportbegeisterter Menschen Schauplatz friedlichen Wettstreits zu sein. Viele grosse Sportler haben hier Erfolge gefeiert und viele Sportnationen wurden hier bewundert.

Heute steht zum ersten Male eine deutsche Fussball-Mannschaft auf diesem Rasen und ist ein wuerdiger Gast, ein "Grosses Team" der gegenwaertigen Periode der Fussballgeschichte.

Mit Achtung haben wir den Aufstieg des deutschen Fussballs zum Weltmeisterthron miterlebt. Heute stehen unsere Sportler den Siegern von Bern gegenueber, von denen vor nicht allzulanger Zeit die ganze Welt sprach.

Fairness, Ausdauer, Mut und sportliches Koennen wird von beiden Gegnern gefordert und der Sieg wird der besseren und gluecklicheren Mannschaft gehoeren.

Wer auch immer im Sinne der Regeln unterliegen mag, wir alle haben menschlich gesehen gewonnen, denn die edle Sache des Sports hat unzaehlige zusammengefuehrt und dieser Tag verbindet uns alle, aufzeigend, dass die Angehoerigen unserer Nationen sehr wohl in friedlicher Runde vereint sein koennen.

Wir bewundern die vielen deutschen Schlachtenbummler, die dabei sein wollten, trotz der grossen Entfernung und trotz des entmutigenden Rufes, den der Englische Winter besitzt. Jeder unter Ihnen und uns haengt mit ganzem Herzen an seiner Mannschaft und hofft, dass ihr der Sieg gehoeren moege.

Es gibt kaum etwas, das die Achtung vor einem anderen Land und Volk besser vermitteln kann, als der persoenliche Kontakt anlaesslich eines schoenen gemeinsamen Erlebnisses, wie es der heutige Tag zu bieten hat.

Wir Englaender sind eine Sportnation, England selbst ist ein Land historischer Staetten, alter Tradition und malerischer Gegenden. Es wird uns immer freuen Sie hier wiederzusehen, sei es dass Sie Sportinteressen verfolgen, oder Naturgenuss und Erholung suchen.

STARS OF GERMANY



Josef Posipal



Fritz Walter



Werner Kohlmeyer



Werner Liebrich



Fritz Herkenrath



W. Herrmann



Helmut Rahn



Karl Mai



Hans Schäfer



Anton Turek



Herbert Ehrhardt



Max Morlock



Otmar Walter



K. Laband



Bernhard Klodt

Introducing

FRITZ HERKENRATH, Goal

A P.T. and geography master at Essen, this 26-year-old goalkeeper was for some time understudy to the great Tony Turek but succeeded him in the match against Belgium, in Brussels. Turek was recalled for the game against France, but the splendid club performances of Herkenrath have greatly impressed Sepp Herberger and a long international career is forecast for him. Played for Essen against Spurs recently.

JOSEF POSIPAL, Right Back

Captain of Germany and the only man in the side ever to play at Wembley. He was centre half for F.I.F.A. when they drew 4-4 with England last season. Posipal, who has also played at right-half and right-back for Germany, is so popular with the fans that when recently he went on holiday to the coast crowds followed him about so much he had to take refuge in a lighthouse! Big, and powerful in the tackle, Posipal is also one of Germany's best ballroom dancers. Is 28.

WERNER KOHLMAYER, Left Back

A World Cup star, and a clerk when he isn't stopping right-wingers, Kohlmeyer has played 19 times for Germany and has a reputation for being one of the strongest tacklers on the Continent. Is 30.

KURT SOMMERLATT, Right Half

Has played eight times for Germany and is experiencing his best-ever season. Was an outstanding figure in the practice games in Germany. Is a wine merchant. Now 29.

WERNER LIEBRICH, Centre Half

Known to millions of television viewers who saw the big blond play a wonderful game at centre-half against Hungary in the World Cup Final. Another clerk, Liebrich has played at full-back and in all half-back positions during his 10 appearances for Germany. Is 27.

GERD HARPERS, Left Half

A salesman, who recently celebrated his 23rd birthday, Harpers is one of the young men Germany have hopes will develop into an outstanding personality, for apart from his great ability is also quite a character whose great hobby is collecting jazz records.

ERWIN WALDNER, Outside Right

Twenty-one-years-old speed merchant, making his international debut. Direct, and a successful goal-scorer, his selection is a popular one in his own country. Is employed in the furniture business at Stuttgart. Is 23.

MICHAEL PFEIFFER, Inside Right

He is classed among the best wing half-backs in the country. A good ball player. Has a reputation among German football followers for his accurate shooting. A tobacconist in Frankfurt. Is 29.

GERMANY

UWE SEELE, *Centre Forward*

Apprenticed as a clerk to a firm of Hamburg furniture removers, this 18-year-old player to-day establishes a new Wembley record. He is the youngest footballer ever to appear in a full international at this famous Stadium. Strongly built, fast and a magnificent shot, he was outstanding when making his international debut at Hanover.

JUPP ROEHRIG, *Inside Left*

A 26-year-old salesman from Cologne, he is expected to become the tactician of the side in succession to Fritz Walter. Roehrig has played on six previous occasions for the German national team. A scheming player and a fine opportunist.

FRANZ BECK, *Outside Left*

Also making his first appearance in an international match. His style of play has been modelled on the various English wingers he has watched playing in Germany. Is a clerk. Aged 29.

RESERVES WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING :—

HERBERT ERHARDT, *Right Back*

A speedy defender, employed as a clerk, he has on three occasions played for Germany and this season shown outstanding form, and was brought into the side when Posipal was moved once more into the half-back line.

JAKOB MILTZ, *Wing Half Back*

Standing 6 ft. 2 in. and weighing 13 st. he is one of the heftiest half-backs in German football. A garage hand at Neuendorf, his impressive form for the Sport Club (Neuendorf) brought about his recent promotion to a place among the "possibles" for the visit to England.

HANS SCHAFFER, *Outside Left*

Another World Cup winner, he has recovered from a serious knee injury which at one time threatened his career, and should add many more caps to the 11 he already possesses. Schaffer works in a scent factory at Cologne. Impressed us all in Switzerland with his direct methods.

KLAUS STUERMER, *Inside Forward*

A 19-year-old radio engineer, he was brought into the team for the first time against France, scored Germany's only goal, and showed commendable poise and confidence. Many predict he will succeed Fritz Walter as Germany's "General" and, on the display I saw him give in Hanover, I'm inclined to agree.

RUDI HOFFMANN, JUPP DERWALL, KARL-HEINZ METZNER

JOHN GRAYDON

Germans Favour English Style

By BERNARD JOY

WORLD Cup winners Germany were one of the least fancied of the 16 teams taking part in the final stages in Switzerland in June and July.

Even after they had beaten Hungary in the Final it was not unfair to say that for sheer football skill they were inferior to Hungary, Uruguay, Brazil and England.

Yet they were worthy winners over Hungary in the pouring rain of Sunday, July 4th, when the Final was staged in the Wankdorf Stadium, Berne.

In the match, too, Hungarian skipper Ferenc Puskas missed two open goals which he would surely have accepted if he had been 100 per cent. fit: Sandor Kocsis headed the ball against the bar and a "wonder" save in the dying minutes by goalkeeper Anton Turek, from Zoltan Czibor, prevented extra time.

While the Hungarians played the more attractive and dazzling football, the Germans were direct and forceful.

Credit Due

Give the Germans credit, too, for fighting back after being two goals down in eight minutes, for inflicting the first defeat on Hungary for four years and for reducing the formidable Hungarian machine to a bedraggled combination in the last stages of the game.

I was particularly glad to see Germany win because they adopted what I consider a typically English type of game.

Even when the Hungarians cut us to ribbons here a year ago I maintained that if our defenders had covered better, stuck close to their men and tackled quickly, we should have stopped their brilliant attack, while long passes flung ahead of speedy wingers would have created gaps in their defence.

These were precisely the tactics Germany used. The defence was magnificent, particularly fair-haired Werner Liebrich, who usually won his duels against whomsoever came into the middle, and the most noticeable feature was the way a man was on his feet again chasing his opponent after failing with his first challenge.

Both Effective

There was nothing pretty or dainty about the German tactics. But nor was there in the 1930s about Arsenal's stonewall defence and lightning raids by Joe Hulme and Cliff Bastin, inspired by Alex James. Both were equally effective.

One of the odd features of the World Cup in Switzerland was that it was possible for teams to meet twice in different stages of the competition.

So, Hungary and Germany clashed in a first round tie at Basle. Here coach Sepp Herberger, an old international, "pulled a fast one."

At the last minute he put in seven reserves, suffered a 8-3 hiding in the broiling heat and took the chance that his side would still qualify for the later rounds by means of a victory over Turkey.

The gamble came off. Germany not only defeated Turkey easily but also rested "key" men from the Final opponents.

This approach was typical of the thoroughness with which Germany prepared. Five years' work, culminating in four weeks' intensive training together for the part-time professionals who make up the team, ensured the best possible team and peak fitness during the games.

There has been an unfortunate sequel to the scientific way the Germans prepared. While in Switzerland the players had glucose injections to give them greater energy, and the after-effects, coupled with the resumption of wine-drinking after weeks of being teetotalers, are suspected to be the cause of the outbreak of liver trouble among the players.

Those taken ill include forwards Rahn, Morlock and Otmar Walter and wing half Karl Mai. As right half Horst Eckel and goalkeeper Anton Turek have sustained broken legs this season their selection difficulties make our troubles before the Austrian match here three years ago look like child's play.

To-day's game is the first full international between the two countries since the war. It was preceded by an ascending scale of games starting on the club level, the two youth internationals, London v. Berlin and "B" internationals.

It looks as though the build-up to the first England-Russia game will take the same lines. Spartak, of Moscow, have been here this season, and Arsenal visited Russia. When either Dynamos or Spartak return next season it is hoped that the final match of their tour will be a challenge match between London and Moscow.