

>>> Bernd Rohrmann -- WHERE I LIVED MY LIFE <<<

~~ Compact report - texts & pictures - 23-06-22 ~~

Bernd 1943 and 2017



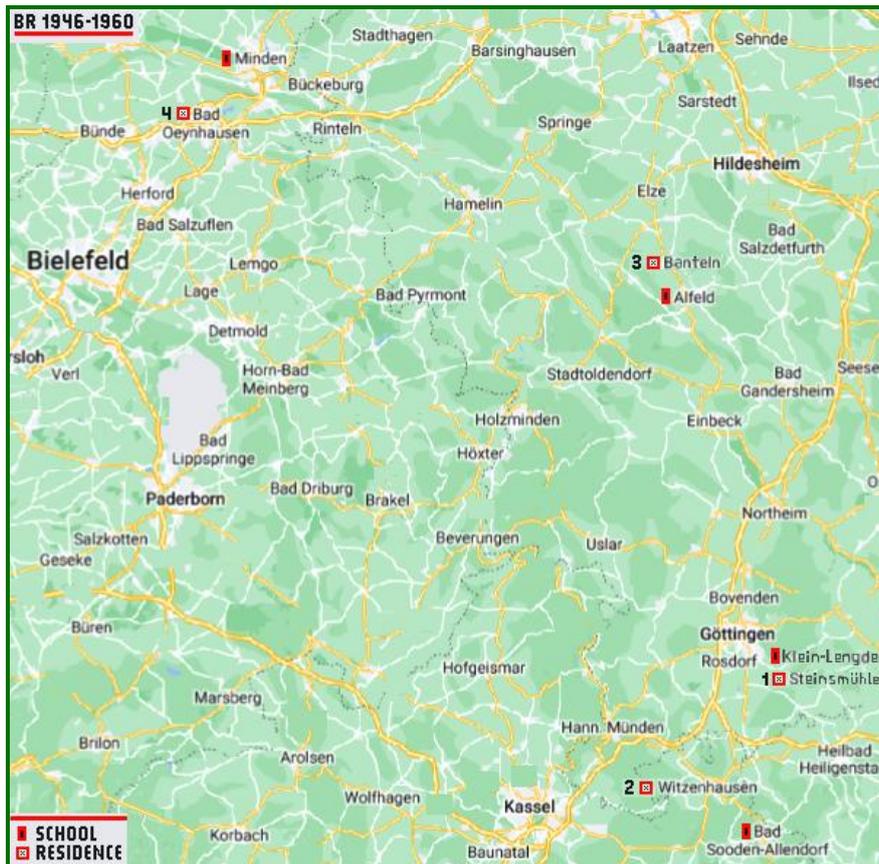
OVERVIEW LIST

		<i>Residence</i>	<i>Prime school</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Job</i>
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#1	1940-1945	Reichenbach/Germany	-/- (not yet)			
#2	1945-1948	Steinsmuehle	Klein Lengden			
#3a	1948-1950	Witzenhausen	Witzenhausen			
#3b	1951-1954	Witzenhausen		Allendorf		
#4	1954-1957	Banteln		Alfeld		
#5	1957-1960	Bad Oeynhausen		Minden		
#6	1960-1961	Marburg			Marburg	
#7a	1961-1965	Hamburg			Hamburg	% Hamburg
#7b	1966-1979	Hamburg			Mannheim	Mannheim
#8a	1980-1988	Mannheim			Mannheim	Mannheim
#0x	1988	Hamilton/NewZealand			Hamilton	Hamilton
#8b	1989-1994	Mannheim				(varia)
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#9a	1995-2009	Melbourne/Australia				Melbourne
#9b	2010-today	Melbourne				-/- (retired)

MAP GERMANY (2020)



MAP OF SCHOOL LOCATIONS (1946-1960)

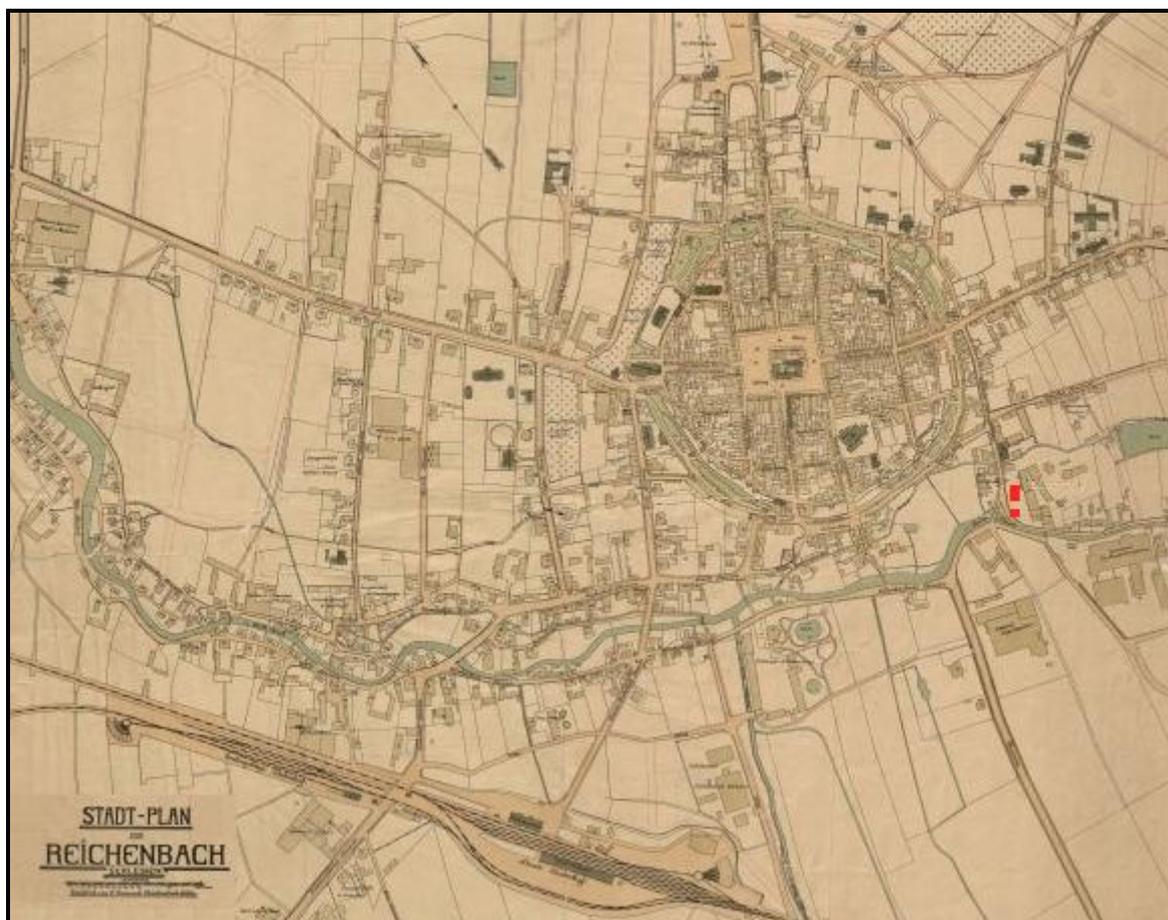


Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life: Residence Reichenbach*

Reichenbach~Dzierżoniów was part of Slesia/Schlesien until 1945, now belongs to Poland



In late 1939 or early 1940, my father Bernhard Rohrmann and my mother, Liv Lindflaten~Rohrmann, moved from Breslau to Reichenbach in Schlesien. They stayed there until 1945 (the end of World War II)



Central place & Townhall - Current view



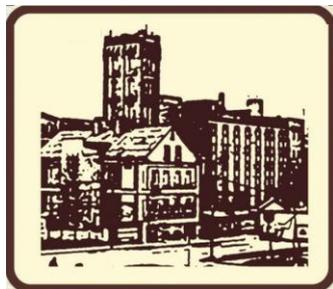
Old Citywalls - some on a slight hill (where I in 1944 learned skiing)



Mill/Młyn (where B.R.senior was employed 1940-45)



My visit there, 30.12.2015



Accommodation B.&L.R.



Liv & Bernd ~ 1943

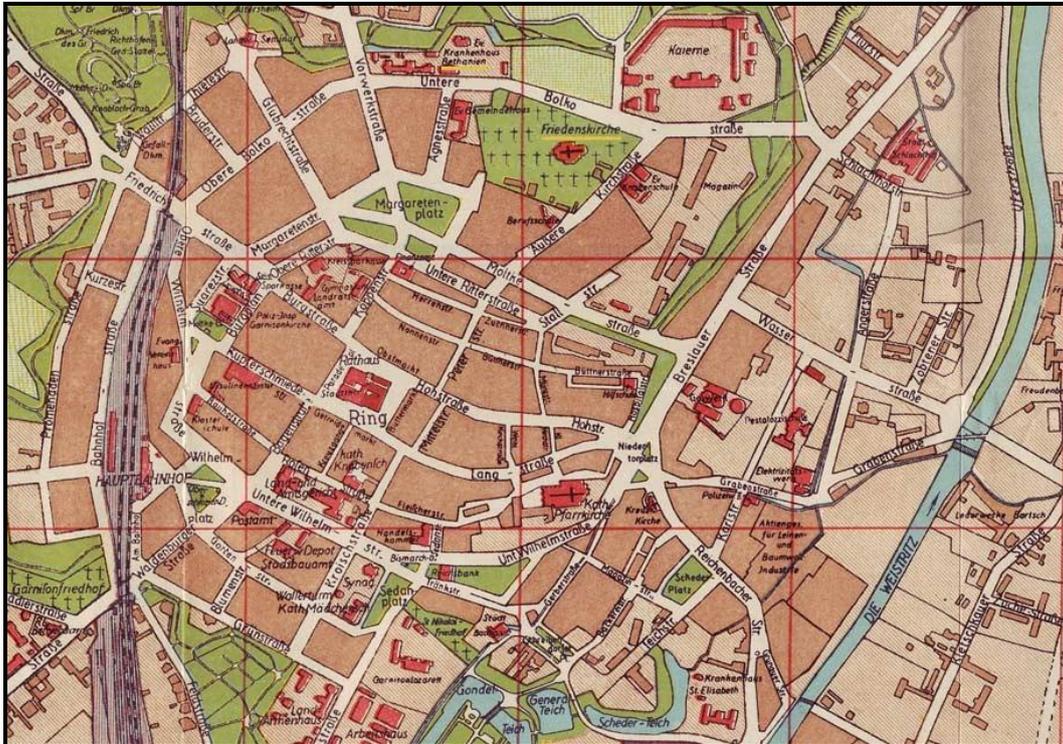
Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life: Schweidnitz*

Schweidnitz~Świdnica

was part of Slesia/Schlesien until 1945, now belongs to Poland



While my family lived until 1945 in Reichenbach, I was actually born, 24.9.1940, and baptized, 1.9.1940, in the city of Schweidnitz. The hospital and the church, "Friedenskirche", are marked in the map below.



30-12-16

01.09.40

The famous Friedenskirche, built around 1650, is now a World Heritage monument. On Dec 30 in 2015 I visited it, and admired the stunning architecture.

Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Steinsmuehle** in Klein Lengden 1945-1948

In 1945, at the end of World War II, my mother flew with me and my sister (then 5 and 1 years old), as many other people, from Reichenbach in Slesia (Schlesien, Eastern Germany) to Steinsmuehle near Goettingen in Western Germany. This property consisted of a mill and a small farm.

=> *historic photo*



=> *historic photo*



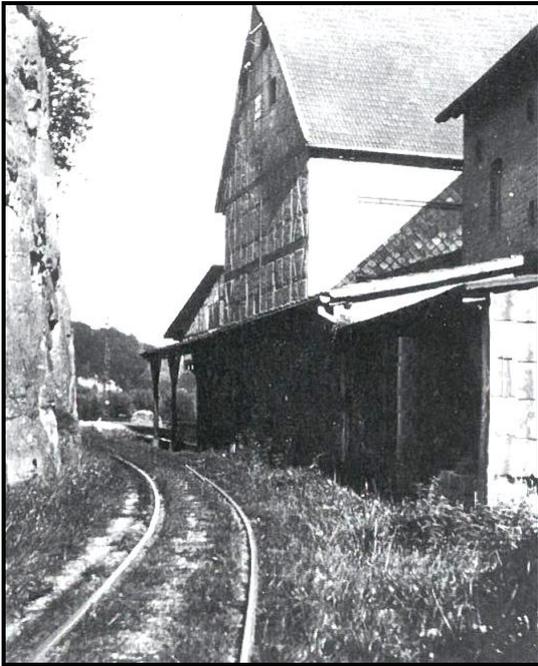
=> *current buildings - B.R.2016*



Steinsmuehle was for a long time owned by the Rohrmann family. Since about 2005 it is not anymore. The mill, as well as the connecting "Gartetal" railway (see next page), have been completely abandoned some decades ago.

The railway connection

In 1897, after long preparation a narrow-gauge railway was installed, the "Gartetal-Bahn", which connected Goettingen via Klein Lengden with Rittmarshausen and later Duderstadt, mostly along the river Garte. This railway had a stop right at *Steinsmuehle*, for passengers and for freight. Yet in 1957 it ended, and was then completely dismantled.



How it looks today (B.R., June 2016)

My first school

In 1946 my thirteen years of school - primary school and high school - began, in Klein Lengden. I had to walk there from Steinsmuehle, over some fields.

But which was my first school - this one?



No - it was a very small and very provisional school in a house which is now a private residence. And the room shown below was in 1946 the classroom, for about 10 pupils.



There I did class 1 and class 2., before changing into the primary school in Witzenhausen.

In 1948, either in Klein Lengden or in the next town, in Witzenhausen, one of the pretty rare family pictures was taken.



Obviously I don't look happy, nor my sister, yet I don't know why - may be the photographer scared us?

Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Witzenhausen** 1948-1956

In late 1947 or 1948, my family moved from Steinsmuehle in Klein Lengden to the town of Witzenhausen in Hessen where my father got a position at a mill. When visiting Witzenhausen in August 2009, I did find the house in which we lived at that time.



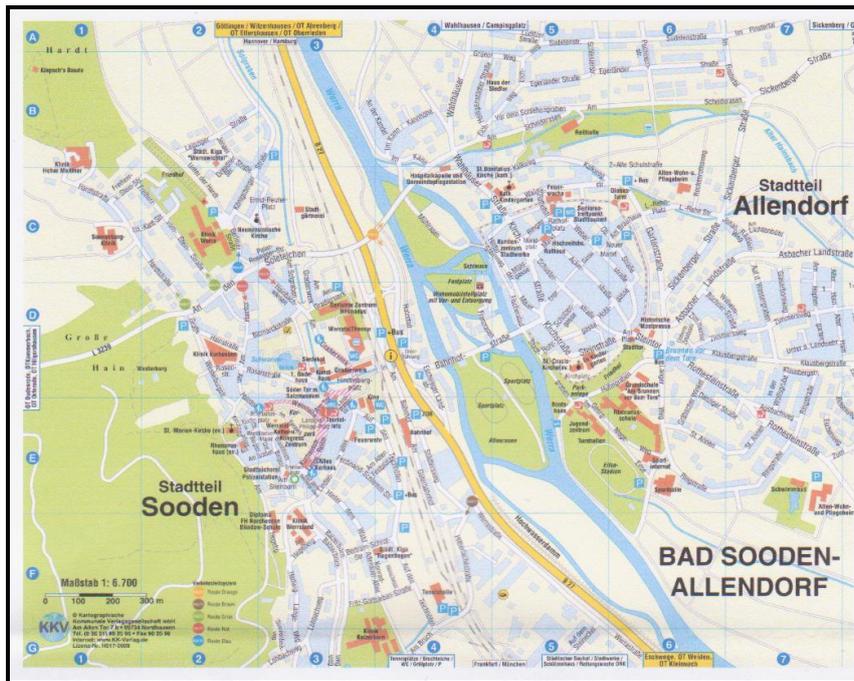
The mill has long closed down. At the petrol station and car repair workshop beside the residence I had my first mini job, being just 10! The nearby railway station which I used all the time is shut down as well.



My high-school was not in Witzenhausen, I had to travel by train from Witzenhausen to Bad Sooden Allendorf.

Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Bad Sooden Allendorf** 1950-1956

From 1950 (?) until 1953 (?) I went to the high school in Allendorf, the only Gymnasium available in the area, going first by train and later by bicycle.

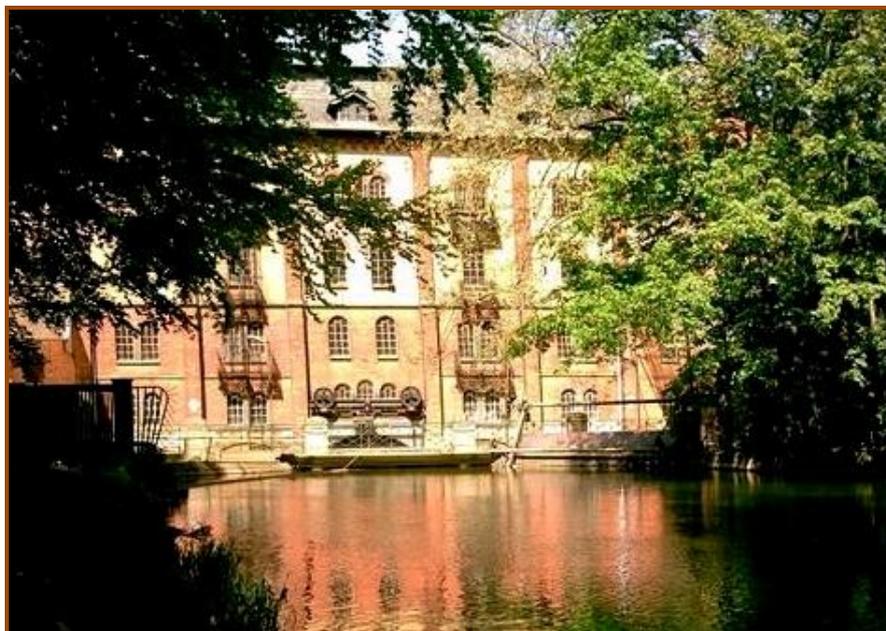


Marketplace, (Ex-)Gymnasium, Townhall (as seen in Nov. 2009)

The former Gymnasium in Allendorf has been renovated and now houses a local museum.

Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Village Banteln** 1956-1957

At the end of 1955, my family moved from Witzenhausen/Hessen to Banteln, a small village in Niedersachsen. The reason was that my father was employed in the mill, positioned at the river Leine. This mill, a watermill, is long closed down. Below are some photos made 2010.



Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Alfeld Gymnasium** 1956-1957

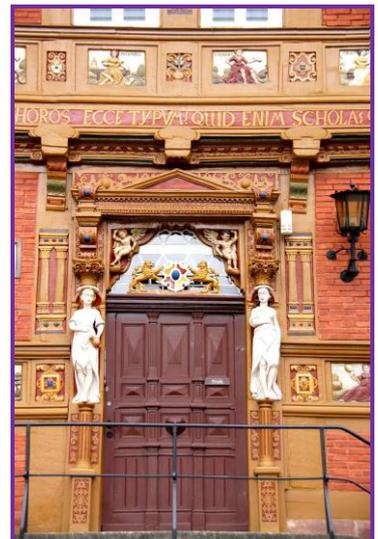
After moving from Witzenhausen/Hessen to Banteln, I had to go to the highschool in Alfeld, until mid-1957.

The building below accomodated the gymnasium from 1953 to 1968.



Addendum:

In Alfeld is a famous historic school building, "Alte Lateinschule" (old latin school), which was erected in 1610 and contains many pieces of excellent wood carving on its facades.



Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Bad Oeynhausen/Melbergen** 1957-1961

In mid-1957, my family moved from Banteln an der Leine to Bad Oeynhausen (both towns in the state Niedersachsen), where my father got a position at a large mill. Actually this was *Melbergen*, a small village beside Bad Oeynhausen. The address was Ringstrasse 70.

My high-school was not there though, I had to travel daily from Bad Oeynhausen to Minden, until 1960. Below is a historic photo of the residence, and one photo of my two sisters and myself, around 1958.



When visiting Bad Oeynhausen and Melbergen in August 2009, I could neither find this house, nor the large mill or its office building.

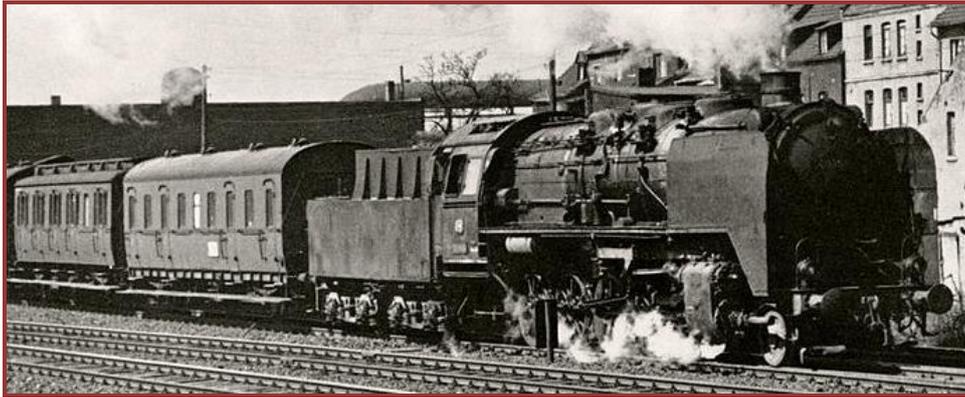
An inquiry in the pertinent town archive, in Loehne, then clarified that all this did not exist anymore, it had been completely torned down about 10 years earlier.

The following map shows how I memorize the locations.

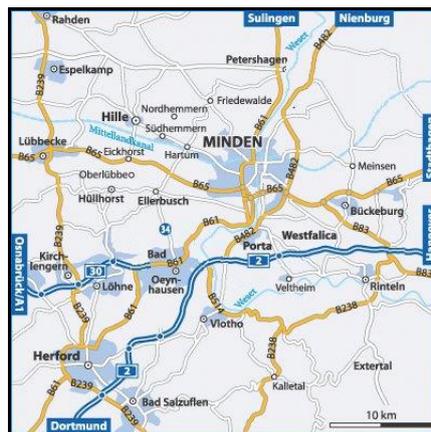


Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* **Gymnasium in Minden** 1957-1961

While living in Bad Oeynhausen, I travelled daily by train to Minden.



Minden is situated at the river Weser and the West-East channel Mittellandkanal.



This city is about 1000 years old, and the architecture of its unique historic cathedral fits into that.



There are also many 'rich in art' buildings in Minden's main street, like this one:



Minden has several high schools. My one was the "Ratsgymnasium", which was founded in 1530 (!) and focused on classical education.



At this Gymnasium, I learned the languages Latin, English, Classik-Greek and French (in this order).

In 1958 I became the speaker of my class, and in 1959 I was elected as student speaker for the school.

In 1960, I completed my high school education there and got the 'Abitur'; this is necessary to apply for university access.