

**Robert (Bob) Swiecicki**  
**Lubeck 1958 - 1959**  
**MOS: 058 Intercept Operator**

**1958**



**2000**



As with many of you, my first glimpse of our beloved “Lorelei of the North” – Lubeck, was from the window of the train that brought us there. I was entranced by the ancient cityscape with its towering church steeples. My traveling companions were Carl Welch, Bill Patton, the then Wayne (Tom Dooley) Johnson.

Unknown to me another Lorelei awaited; one more personal, more fateful, one, which was a response to my young man’s one-sided argument with THE FORCE. The snare was set and I blundered into it with eyes wide open.

There she was...at the Berlinerhof, up to her elbows in soapsuds washing out beer glasses. A tendril of blond hair falling across her sweaty face. Devastating blue-grey eyes. My alter-ego saying “dammit I didn’t mean so soon!” Angelic tittering in the dark corners of my mind. Then a deep booming voice says – “Gotcha!” Been living my joyful penance ever since.

Zl’d in January 1960 and went job hunting. Hard times. Irmgard arrived in March and by July I nailed down a job in my field if interest. Six years with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Health. Picked up a master’s degree and back in uniform with the U.S. Public Health Service. Assignments to St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Boston. Retired in 1993 and am now the co-proprietor of the Lubecker Gasthaus B&B in Lubeck, Maine. The town was named for Lubeck, Germany but that is another story.

Made good use of my Army experience: been a ham radio operator since 1969 – WA1NME. I’m on 40 meters – CW, what else?

May THE FORCE be with you all.