

## **ALLGÄU BERGMARSCH 2014**

I CANNOT RECALL WHO GAVE ME THE CONTACT INFO BASED ON WHICH I GOT IN TOUCH WITH THEN MAJOR LF KLAUS FINK AND THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN. IN ANY CASE, I DID MY FIRST BERGMARSCH IN 2011, IN BRILLIANT CLEAR SEPTEMBER WEATHER ... 'WOHL UNTER BLAUEN HIMMEL'! IT WAS A DEMANDING BUT REWARDING EXPERIENCE, THUS A CANDLE IN MY MIND KEPT FLICKERING...I HAVE DO TO THIS AGAIN.

WELL THE 13TH SEPTEMBER 2014 WAS THE DAY...AND IT DAWNED DRIZZLY BUT RATHER WARM. WE WALKED DOWN FROM THE BERGHÜTTE ALMAGMACH TO THE SMALL CHAPEL BY THE ROAD AND TURNED TOWARD THE BÄRENKÖPFE...A LONG STRETCH OF ASCEND.

THE POINT TEAM DISAPPERED IN THE FOG RIGHT AFTER WE LEFT THE MAIN ROAD. FIVE SENIOR GENTLEMEN FORMED THE REAR ECHELON. A SHORT PAUSE AT THE TOP AND WE CONTINUED TOWARD STEINEBERG AT 1660M ALTITUDE.

IN THE FOG THE VISIBILITY WAS 150M AT THE MOST, WHICH MEANT YOU SAW THE TRAIL BUT COULD NOT ENJOY THE SCENERY. ANYWAY, WITH THE STEADY PACE WE PUSHED ON, THE TRAIL BECOMING NARROW AND NARROWER UNTIL THERE WAS NO SOLID GROUND UNDER THE TREKKING POLES! THEN CAME THE SLANTED PUSH-UP SLOPE OF LAYERED SANDSTONE. TO A PERSON WITH NO EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE TREKKING OR CLIMBING THE CABLE RAILS WERE OF GOOD HELP. AND, IN THE FOG YOU DID NOT SEE WHAT WAS BEYOND THE EDGE!

THE TRAIL CONTINUED ALONG THE CREST OF THIS CHAIN OF PEAKS, THE STUIBEN BEING THE HIGHEST AT 1750M. FROM THERE IT WAS ALL DOWNHILL! THE ROUTE ACTUALLY TURNED TOWARD ALMAGMACH AT THE SAME LOCATION FROM WHERE WE HEADED TO THE KEMPTENERS' NATURFREUNDEHAUS IN 2011. SO, NOW I HAD SEEN THE WHOLE SECTION OF THIS TRAIL.

THE KAMERADSCHAFTTABEND IS ALWAYS A JOYFUL EVENT. THE FIRST TIMERS RECEIVED THEIR BRONZE LAURELED EDELWEISS BADGE AND THE VETERANS HIGHER GRADES. AT THIS POINT, I PRESENTED THE PROPRIETORS OF THE HÜTTE ALMAGMACH WITH THE STANDARD OF FINNISH PEACEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION AS A TOKEN FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY.

SUMMARIZING THE EXPERIENCE: IT WAS GREAT. A SOLDIER HAS TO BE WELL PREPARED FOR WHAT EVER THE ENVIRONMENT THROWS ON HIS WAY... "OB STURMT ODER SCHNEIT, OB DIE SONNE UNS LACHT...!"

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(SpArty)

