

St. Lucy's Bride brings Christmas spirit to Baltic Barracks

Written by AG

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St. Lucy's Bride, wearing a wreath of fir and candles on her head, led a procession of children holding candles in their hands and singing St. Lucy's song. The procession of light conducted at the Garrison Church on 3 December 2012 traditionally coincided with an exceptional family gathering at Baltic Barracks, Jule-Gløgg.

Jule-Gløgg means in Danish wine with aromatic spices, almonds and raisins. It is a traditional drink in winter time, especially close to Christmas, popular in Denmark and other countries of Scandinavia. It is also the name given to a family gathering held in a Christmas spirit organized at Baltic Barracks each year by the Danish community of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE).

"Jule-Gløgg event is not just aiming at setting out minds for the upcoming season. It also gives the Danish community an outstanding opportunity to thank all who make your life in the wonderful city of Szczecin so much easier," said Colonel Søren Bojesen, the Danish Senior National Officer, who also welcomed all participants of the event – the multinational personnel of the Headquarters, National Support Elements, Headquarters Company along with the families as well as invited guests, diplomats, representatives of the local authorities, uniformed services and companies. A guest of honour of this year's event was His Excellency Mr Steen Hommel, the Danish Ambassador to Poland.

"This is what I feel today: the Danish community is here today bringing Danish traditions to Poland and creating a special atmosphere," said Mr Hommel.

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"I dare say that mixing traditions with the new inputs often creates something new and inspiring. It is all about an open mind and interest in other people and traditions,"

Mr Hommel underlined.

"Christmas is the time for reflection and being together with our dear ones. This is a privilege that most of us take for granted, but not everyone has these possibilities" - with these words Colonel Bojesen drew the attention of all participants of Jule-Gløgg to the Christmas Charity Bazaar. The Danish ladies offering homemade and handmade gifts, crafts and goodies were collecting money for the Day-Care Room "Serduszka" which supports small children of 3 to 6 years old in Szczecin.

Jule-Gløgg is full of Danish symbols – there are colours of the Danish national flag all around, Danish delicacies, traditional dishes served at Christmas and warm Jule-Gløgg. But the most important is the integration of all members of the MNC NE family, and a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. And small recitals played by the Szczecin Garrison Military Music Band and the Baltic Singer made everybody remember that the most special time in the year, the Christmas time, is just about to come.

Photos by: Marian Cihon, SVK CIV

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