

Review of doi.org/10.5194/hgss-2026-5_Bodo Reinisch

The article describes Bodo Reinisch's career, which typically follows the escape from his native Silesia at a boy's formative age. The early years of life up to the experiences of the first school years shaped the boy in a reliable environment and conveyed stability of character until the sudden upheaval caused by the escape with its war-related consequences catapulted the family into the provincial town of Hausach in the Black Forest with a dialect that was foreign to him. Fortunately, the family did not break up, as was often the case back then. With Bodo's active support, the family managed to build their second home over time. Like the war children of our generation, he found community and recognition in sporting and academic achievements, which led Bodo to the University of Freiburg. Fortunately, this typical development of an ambitious “incorporation” did not lead to the trauma of war and flight. In this context, the developments at the Breisach Ionosphere Institute were wonderful.

Bodo and his great love Gerda accompanied Gerhard Schmidtke and his brother in two cars on the adventurous journey to Tehran in April 1961. The long journey through Austria, socialist Yugoslavia, the Iron Curtain of the Eastern Bloc from Bulgaria and Turkey to Ankara strengthened the young couple's bond. There they were strongly advised against traveling to Tehran and so they parted ways there. The gravel roads behind Ankara were already symbolic, but what Bodo reported later exceeded all previous predictions, even far from Iran.

During this phase of life, the awareness of being able to master even very difficult situations, of placing family and friendships at the center of life and of being able to achieve success with commitment grew. Dieter Bilitza explains the latter skillfully.

In summary, I can only confirm that the manuscript honors Bodo Reinisch's colossal life's work in a way that inspires respect and reveals a person who is value-oriented, very successful and, in his modesty, always remains a shining role model.

I recommend publishing the manuscript with the request to include the life-shaping aspects of early adolescence.

A typo in the 11th line from the bottom of page 3: “...also in his role...”.

Gerhard Schmidtke

Freiburg, 28.03.2026