

# 9th German Miners Day in Herne, Germany

## (from the st till the 3rd of September 2000)

*by Werner Horning*

The motto of the meeting runs as follows: Roots, Changing, Innovations. Nearly 5,000 miners and mining engineers in their traditional mining costumes went to the festival. Even miners from 8 European countries joined the party. The German miners and metallurgist Day take place every four years and is organized by the "Bund Deutscher Bergmanns-, Hütten- und Knappenvereine" (league of German Miners and Metallurgist) and the "Landesverband Nordrhein-Wesfalen" (confederation of the county of North Rhine Westphalia).



*The author: Werner Horning (at right).*

The festival started at Friday the 1st of September with excursions and different sightseeing trips in the region. It went of at Saturday the 2nd of September with several official receptions during the day, and the opening of the festival at 7 p.m. in the great festival tent. Than there have been different performances with miners brass bands and dancing groups and so on. At 11 p.m. the great miners tattoo was celebrated by torch-light, which was very impressive. The day ended with marvelous fireworks.

At Sunday the 3rd of September the different groups met in the festival tent for an oecumenical religious service at 11 o'clock. Banner bearers with nearly hundred of banners marched into the tent and draw up in three lines in front of the rostrum. After that the miners had a common lunch with their relatives.



*French miners.*

At 1 p.m. gathering and draw up for the great miners parade. At 2 o'clock start of the miners parade. It was for sure the greatest parade with miners in their traditional costumes ever held. Nearly 5,000 miners marched through the streets of Herne (Wanne-Eickel) attended by miners brass bands. Hundred of thousands of people joined the parade beside the streets and hanging at the windows.

The parade ended at the parade-ground and the Prime Minister of North-Rhine-Westphalia took the salute. Than he hold a speech in the festival tent in front of all the miners and their relatives. The three days festival ended at 6 p.m.

Beside all this activities there have been a great exhibition "Changing of the structure of the Ruhr Region". It shows the history of the region and the changing to an innovative region with a lot of new companies and new activities beside the mining industry. Several museums of the region gave a contribution to the show.

Also it was a public festival.



*Polish miners.*



*Colbalt-blue Work-*



*Oecumenical Religious Service.*



*Werner Horning, once again is spotted,  
marching dead-center.*