



# Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2024

Volume 20, Issue 2

## April - an Opportunity to Salute Military Children

Though the label “military brat” is worn with pride by those who grew up in military families, many outside that lifestyle are unaware of just what those children go through, good and bad.

Each year, the Department of Defense joins national, state and local governments, schools, military-serving organizations, companies and private citizens in celebrating military children and the sacrifices they make, especially every April during the Month of the Military Child.

Started in 1986 by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, the Month of the Military Child allows Americans to celebrate military children for their service on the homefront and in their communities.



According to the DOD, more than 1.6 million military children face challenges and unique experiences due to their parents’ service. Some of those challenges include moving away from friends, separating from their parents for long periods or seeing their parents come home physically or mentally hurt.

**APRIL IS OUR MONTH...THE 30th IS OUR DAY...PURPLE IS OUR COLOR!**

**LOOK @ WHAT WHATABURGER IS DOING:**

This Month of the Military Child, celebrate with Whataburger and GI! At any Whataburger, you can donate \$1 or more at checkout to help reach GI’s \$1 million goal and fuel the college dreams of military teens.

**Together, let’s feed their future. Donate at Whataburger!**



**GRATITUDE INITIATIVE**



## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT



Easter weekend 75 years ago the bases of the Berlin Airlift were alive with activities flying into Berlin with the "Easter Parade". This was General Tunner's crowning touch. From the bases in Western Germany beginning at noon on Saturday until noon on Sunday British and American aircraft landed in one of Berlin's three airports every 63 seconds. 12,849 tons were delivered on 1,383 individual flights from the West German bases. This all-out effort was accident free and this record inspired the airmen so much that on Easter Monday the previous daily delivery records continued to climb. The impact of the "Easter Parade" must have contributed indirectly to the decision to end the blockade (12 May '49) as the Communist observer in the Berlin Control Center walked out saying, "Your aircraft are coming in so fast I can't record them".

### ANNIVERSARY EVENTS YOU CAN ATTEND:

(See each organizations website for further information)

**JAN 20<sup>th</sup> to MAY 27<sup>th</sup>** – Denver, Colorado. "The Berlin Airlift: Supplies from the Sky!" At Wings Over the Rockies museum @ the former Lowry AFB.

**APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>** Saturday - Hagerstown MD Airport – Home of the C-82 – Berlin Airlift event.

**APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>** Sunday - Warminster PA. Berlin Airlift Symposium at "the Fuge". Visit the Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society website.

**APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>** Saturday – Hill AFB, UT will dedicate a new hangar w/a C-54 display about the Airlift & Col Halvorsen.

**APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>** Saturday – Sylva, NC "Greening up the Mountains" Festival w/feature Airlift speakers & video at the Freedom Pavilion.

**MAY 9<sup>th</sup>** Thursday - Wash. DC., German American Heritage Museum – Opening a Berlin Airlift Commemoration display.

**MAY 11<sup>th</sup>** Saturday - Berlin – 11:00 am Unveiling of the plaque for Rex Waite (head of the British Air Force units in Berlin '47-'49. Considered one of two fathers of the Airlift. Parts of a permanent exhibition at the Allied Museum in Berlin are dedicated to him) at Fehrbelliner Platz 4 with attendance of the Mayor of Berlin.

2 pm - Boat trip on Spree River with participants and friends coming to Berlin for the 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee.

7 pm - Dinner for selected guests with Mayor of Berlin at the City Hall (Rotes Rathaus)

**MAY 12<sup>th</sup>** - Berlin - The end of the Russian Blockade of West Berlin in 1949.

10:30 am – Commemorative Event at Platz der Luftbrücke with attendance of the Minister of Defense and the Mayor of Berlin. Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of April. Berlin Brats were invited to this for the 70<sup>th</sup> in 2019. Thirty-three of us attended.

12:00 pm – Lunch at the Departure Hall in Tempelhof. (the lunch is part of the above invitation)

1:30 pm – Unveiling of the memorial plaque "Little Vittles "(the Mayor of Berlin will give a speech)

The afternoon of May 12<sup>th</sup> will be packed with the visit to the special open-air exhibition: "Blocked Victors - Divided Berlin: 75 Years of the Airlift" on Tempelhof Airport grounds. In addition, the guests can actively participate in individual program items (e.g., food trucks will be there, music, podium). The foundation suggested further program content, the stage play "When the chocolate fell from the sky," TV interviews and musical performance (Berlin Airlift Sounds, swing, and jive).

**MAY 15<sup>th</sup>** Wednesday - Charlotte NC. Berlin Airlift Day. A Luncheon and Dinner being planned.

**MAY 18<sup>th</sup>** Saturday - The Halvorsen Education Foundation:

Annual Gala: "Mission Accomplished – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift." Keynote Speaker: General Mike Minihan, Spanish Fork Airport, Spanish Fork, Utah.



**JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>** Friday – Fassberg, Germany. Berlin Airlift commemorations in town and photographer's day on the airbase. Museum will be open all day.

**JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>** Saturday - Fassberg Airshow - Evening concert, aircraft, vendors, music, kid's fun spots.

**JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>** – Wiesbaden Airfield, Germany. A festival to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Ausstellung über die Blockade & Luftbrücke Berlin  
Eintritt: 4,00 EUR

Luftbrücke  
Berlin  
**IN FASSBERG**  
1948 – 1949

**Luftbrückenmuseum  
Erinnerungsstätte**

Öffnungszeiten 2024, 16. März bis 03. November  
Montag bis Sonntag 13:00 bis 17:00 Uhr

Führung von Besuchergruppen nur nach Anmeldung  
Gruppenstärke mindestens fünf Personen; Kostenpauschale 20 €

Anmeldung:  
Technisches Ausbildungszentrum der Luftwaffe,  
Fliegerhorst, 29328 Faßberg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 5055 17-21410

**Berlin Reunion for our parents:  
BUSMVA – (Berlin U.S. Military Veterans  
Association)**



**In Berlin, October 2-9, 2024 @ the Dorint Hotel...**...the same hotel our Berlin Brats Reunion w/b at in December. Their itinerary will be forth coming in June. In the meantime, you can email: [Berlinreunion2024@gmail.com](mailto:Berlinreunion2024@gmail.com) or visit their website: [berlinveterans.com](http://berlinveterans.com)



## Steglitz-Zehlendorf

**The "Outpost" is closed: The Allied Museum is fighting for renovation and with its landlady**

Published on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 by Boris Buchholz

"Due to urgent maintenance work, the Outpost Theater is closed until further notice," says the Allied Museum's website. An essential core of the permanent exhibition is housed in the listed former cinema of the US troops - the exhibition section covering the years 1945 to 1950 has no longer been accessible since October. The reason for the closure were defects in the building, says museum director **Jürgen Lillteicher** to the Tagesspiegel:

"They include all areas of the building, electrics, heating, building structure, pollutants, safety, statics, roofs, etc." The former cinema was "in the 90s" poorly prepared for museum use over the years. The Outpost was built almost 72 years ago.



**New security lighting had to be installed at the beginning of October** - construction work is still ongoing today. "We don't know anything about how long the measures will last," says Jürgen Lillteicher. "The individual measures are currently not being coordinated and no timetable or project plan has been presented to the museum." It was not expected that "the measures to install functional safety lighting alone would now take five months." The Federal Agency for Real Estate (BImA), which owns the building, informed the museum of a two-week period. The long-term closure came suddenly and the team was unable to prepare the museum for it.

**The museum director calls the conditions "unbearable" and says** it is becoming increasingly difficult for the museum "to tell our story, namely that democracy and freedom must also be defended and that we need the partners of the Western community of values to do this." A very current topic.



**From the museum director's point of view,** the BImA has neglected the buildings on the museum grounds for too long. "The defects are therefore now very extensive and require major measures." He is fighting a battle with his landlord: "The roof of the Nicholson Library is also leaking and water is seeping into the exhibition rooms, and not just since yesterday."

**A spokeswoman for BImA confirmed to the Tagesspiegel** that initially only a period of two weeks had been announced for the installation of the security lighting. "There were delays for reasons that were entirely within the control of the company carrying out the work." However, according to the BImA, the outpost

was handed over to the museum again on December 21<sup>st</sup>. "From the expert's point of view, the remaining work has no relevance to the safety of employees and visitors." BImA does not know why the Outpost has not reopened.

**"Of course, the BImA knows that** there are still significant deficiencies in the building and that both building regulations and issues of occupational safety and the protection of our visitors must be taken into account," counters Jürgen Lillteicher. Work has continued on the facilities since December: "For me, this is not a handover and a clear signal for continued operation!" The back and forth without a schedule is damaging to the museum. The museum has now commissioned its own experts and the team is waiting for their opinion. "At the beginning of March it should be clear whether the Outpost can open." He adds: "I wouldn't forgive myself if visitors were harmed."

**The museum director would prefer** if the buildings were properly renovated. But that probably won't happen. BlmA is currently planning renovation measures to maintain traffic and operational safety, according to the Bonn authority. But: "For economic reasons, the planning of a full, fundamental renovation can only take place if the Commissioner for Culture and Media and the Allied Museum should decide that the museum should remain permanently at the Clayallee location." Because there is no information on this, we have "Even in the past, maintenance and repair measures were limited to the most essential."



**In plain language:** In order for the Allied Museum to be able to show its exhibitions in dry and appropriate rooms, the plans to move to Tempelhof Airport would have to be scrapped. A future project is in the balance: While 61,092 visitors came to the museum on the remote Clayallee site in 2023, up to 350,000 interested visitors are expected at the central location in Tempelhof every year. According to current plans, the Allied Museum is scheduled to move to hangar hall seven of the former airport in 2034.

**The question of renovation is completely independent of the future** of the museum, argues Jürgen Lillteicher. "First of all, BlmA has an obligation to provide us as tenants with buildings that can also be used for the rental purpose of a 'museum'." He sees that the museum's future plans have an impact on his landlord's willingness to invest: "I think so but attitude is not justified. The museum must also function now. We pay rent!"

**Is it worth visiting even** if the Outpost is not accessible? "Absolutely," the museum director is convinced. Currently, the large objects on the open-air site are increasingly being presented as part of group tours, and the airlift aircraft will soon open several times a day for individual visitors. As part of the special exhibition on the last frontier of the Cold War in Korea, the museum will show a film series on March 21<sup>st</sup> that deals with the history and present of Korea since 1945. Because the Outpost is closed, the museum has found cinematic asylum in the Zehlendorf Bali Cinema. "We were received very warmly there!" And then Jürgen Lillteicher says: "We won't let ourselves be downplayed." It sounds decisive.

**Editor's Note:** *As of April 8, 2024 the official website of the Museum states that the most important aspects of the historical era previously displayed in the Outpost Theater (1945-1950) will be housed in the neighboring library (Nicholson-Bibliothek) beginning 12 May, 2024 along with the remainder of the exhibition. The Outpost Theater can still be viewed from outside and the museum grounds which include sections of the Berlin Wall, East German guard tower, last guard house from Checkpoint Charlie, a railway carriage from a French duty train and a transport plane deployed in the Airlift are open as well.*



Our 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion in BERLIN - July 2006 - 401 of us under the transport plane!



## LOST PLACES IN BERLIN-OUR RTO (OUR DUTY TRAIN STATION)

Here you can find the last traces of the legendary "Ami-Bahnhof"

March 21, 2024

By Kerstin Heinrich - BERLINER MORGANPOST

(submitted by: Deb (Brians) Clark '74)

Berlin's famous duty trains: The US soldiers' trains drove from Lichterfelde West station.

For almost five decades, US tanks and military equipment from West Germany rolled here in special trains across the GDR to West Berlin. The US military station in Lichterfelde West in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf district ensured supplies and troop transport in the American sector and became an institution in the neighborhood - until the last soldiers were withdrawn from Berlin after reunification in the 1990s and the US rail base fell into a long-lasting Sleeping Beauty slumber.



*US military station: M60 tanks and 10.5cm howitzers on self-propelled guns of the US Army reach the train station in Berlin-Lichterfelde on August 22, 1963 after a journey through the Soviet zone(© picture alliance)*

### These are the facts about the Lichterfelde West US military station at a glance:

- Address: Curtiusstraße 28–30, 12205 Berlin-Lichterfelde
- History: In 1947, the US Army's "Rail Transportation Office" (RTO) was relocated to Lichterfelde West train station; The Americans built a military station with its own platform and utility buildings along Ladestraße on Curtiusstrasse; After the Allies withdrew in 1994, the military station was shut down and most of the infrastructure was demolished in 2008
- Guided tours: No
- Monument protection: No
- Status: Lost Place

### Where exactly was the US military station?

The US military station was located on Curtiusstrasse south of today's Lichterfelde West S-Bahn platform on the area of the freight station in the Lichterfelde district of the Steglitz-Zehlendorf district. The best way to reach the site by public transport is from Lichterfelde West S-Bahn station (S1) and use the pedestrian tunnel to Hans-Sachs-Straße. The Google coordinates (open location code) for the object are C7RR+VG4 Berlin.

### Initial situation: Establishment of Allied train traffic to West Berlin



*Lichterfelde West train station on Hans-Sachs-Straße in 2013. © picture alliance/imageBROKER | Schoening Berlin*

After the end of the Second World War, the Western Allies maintained three of their own train stations in Berlin, which were used for rail transport, loading equipment and transporting military personnel. These were important connecting routes into the city, which was divided into sectors. This was demonstrated not only by the blockade in 1948/1949, with which the Soviet Union tried to force the Western Allies to withdraw from Berlin. The British Army used an area at Charlottenburg train station in West Berlin. The French military station "Gare Française" was on Bundestrasse in Tegel.

The US Army's "Rail Transportation Office" (RTO) was housed in Wannsee during the first two years of occupation. In 1947 it was moved to Lichterfelde West train station, moving it closer to the important military facilities and barracks in the American sector. From here, both the US headquarters on Clayallee and the large US barracks - the Andrews Barracks on Finckensteinallee, the McNair Barracks on Goerzallee and the Roosevelt Barracks on Gardeschützenweg - could be reached quickly.

**History of the station: The old station is being converted for the US Army in '47**



The Lichterfelde West train station was built in 1872 as part of the Carstenn villa project. When it opened, it had two side platforms and an elaborately designed reception building in the style of a Tuscan villa. In 1891 it was rebuilt with the opening of the new Wannseebahn and received a central platform and a sweeping system. During the renovations, the tracks were raised and the station was divided into a passenger station and a freight station. In 1933, electric S-Bahn trains stopped in Lichterfelde West for the first time.

"Gruss aus Gross-Lichterfelde", postcard around 1898. In 1920 the villa colony was incorporated into the urban area of Berlin.  
© picture-alliance / akg-images | akg images

The station, which was badly damaged during the war, was quickly repaired after the war and began operations again in June 1945. A year and a half later, the Americans

came: The US Army moved into part of the freight yard and used the station as "RTO Berlin-Lichterfelde West" for military traffic from 1947 onwards. The trains ran away from the S-Bahn lines on the loading street of the freight station on Hans-Sachs-Straße, where separate US station buildings for freight and passenger traffic, appropriate tracks and a dedicated platform were set up.

Military equipment and tons of goods rolled between the RTO in the southwest of Berlin and Frankfurt am Main and Bremerhaven. Tanks, vehicles and military equipment were loaded and unloaded here by the US Army - often under the eyes of a line of curious neighborhood children who had sneaked onto the site or at least caught a glimpse through the fence. But the rail base was not only important for transporting materials.

In addition to the US Army's freight transport between West Germany and West Berlin, the RTO handled four so-called "duty trains" every day for troop transport and passenger transit. In the southwest, some Berliners may still remember the transport trains. The platform was decorated with American flags, and arriving and departing trains were greeted and fare welled by loud military music - not always to the delight of the local residents. In 1950, the US Army had a new RTO terminal building built specifically for its military personnel. In the same year, the "Freedom Bell" was reloaded by members of the US Army at the Lichterfelde West military station and transported to the Schöneberg town hall, where it still sounds in the town hall tower today.

Continued page 22



Karen Sellers '80 duty train travel document





# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

## COLORADO BRATS CLUB – CELEBRATES 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

The Colorado Brats Club – *(all Brats/all years)* usually holds 2 annual events: a German luncheon each April at the famous *(famous to Brats)* Edelweiss restaurant in Colorado Springs and then they attend the Christkindl Markt & Christmas parade the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December in Denver.

This year they added a special outing to “Wings over the Rockies” as they paid special homage to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Airlift with their newest exhibit: “The Berlin Airlift: Supplies From The Sky”

*(Wings Over the Rockies is an Air and Space Museum, located on the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. The museum preserves the history of Lowry AFB's operations from 1938 to 1994 in its collections, archives, and research library).*







Attendees of the "Colorado Brats Club"  
Chris Kyrios (far right - Club organizer) brought his father's (Alexander Kyrios – FAC '49-53) BERLIN letterjacket to the event (far left)!





Diane (McConchie) Porras '79,  
Debbie Doty '80, MaryAnn  
(Cunha) Glover '76



Christine Radziminski '88, Darla (Tabor) Hung '88, Jeff  
Hung-spouse, Dan Sisneros '75 in blue shirt, wife Barbara  
Black, MaryAnn (Cunha) Glover '76 and spouse Lonnie



Dan Sisneros '75 and wife  
Barbara Black



Lonnie, Jeff and Darla '88

***Colorado (& Wyoming) Berlin Brats in Attendance!***



# MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

**Schnitzel Fest – hosted by Mike Cannon-Heidelberg came to Phoenix’s Haus Murphy on March 16th**



Our host Mike Cannon – Heidelberg Evelyne (Carey) Christich '73 Bitburg & Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 Berlin



### **BERLINERS IN THE HAUS!**

Jackie Runyon-spouse, Jim Wright '72, Mike Friedrich '79 and spouse Naomi (in green), Carl Fenstermacher '73 & Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72



Multi-schools in attendance!  
(Berlin, Bitburg, Heidelberg and Karlsruhe)





Berlin '72-'73 & Bitburg '73ers - ('70's rivals) – both Class "B" schools



Heidelberg, Berlin & Bitburg Letter Jackets in the Haus!!





Pam (Pearson) Johnson '78 and Linda (Waters) Smith '80 met up in Lexington, KY for lunch at Drakes. Linda came up from TN to show her horse in the Pennyroyal Charity Horse Show at the KY Horse Park. "We haven't seen each other in 45 years. Oh wait, can't be, we're not that old, lol."



Brat Link Up: Nice visit this past weekend (late January) at the San Antonio Riverwalk with Steven Murphy '65. Whitney Snodgrass '66 (on L).



Tamara (Murdoch) Cooper '88 and Leigh (Love) Roper '85 link up at 30 Brunch House, Rockwall (Dallas), TX Feb 18, 2024



Warren Knarr '77 attended Mike Cannon's (Heidelberg Brat) Schnitzel Fest '24 in Portsmouth, VA., Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Warren K. Knarr

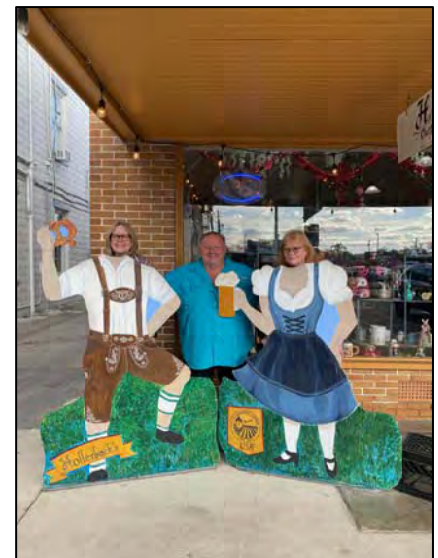


A Little outnumbered but this Brat stood his ground with all those Lions!!

Early '70's: Hollerbach's German Restaurant, Sanford, FL (2/10/24)



Deb, Gary and Pat



(L) Mike Clark-spouse, Pat (Martel) Little '72 & spouse Roger (R) Deb (Brians) Clark '74, Susan Robinson-spouse & Gary Robinson '74



Late '80's Cruising....(Virgin cruise lines, 2/2024)



Left Picture:

Jeanine (Jaynes) Anderson '87  
 Jeremy Sibert (Jeanine's husband)  
 Michael James '87  
 Devin Ferguson '87  
 Rob Ahrens '87  
 Steve Kinzie '87  
 Tom Carey '87  
 Below pic:  
 Tom, Joy (Campolo) Turner '88 &  
 Steve



*Had a great time visiting with and seeing Berlin American High School classmates and spouses. Last time I had seen many of them it was 27 years ago for a reunion in Las Vegas. Rob Ahrens thanks for setting this up.*

*It seems like 1987 was just yesterday. Can't wait to re-connect in the future. Scott Weaver '87*





Brat-get-together: Larry Speer '83, Karen (Kohn) Zietlow '82 & James Miller '83 on "ShipRocked 2024."

Attending the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Rock cruising, setting sail from Miami, FL on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>.



**The Quilts of Valor foundation** recognizes Carl Samples '76 for his 33 years of military service!  
*Space Coast, FL Chapter, March 2024*





**60 have already registered for the REUNION this December!  
37 have already registered for the Christkindl Markt tour!  
50 have already registered for the Tempelhof tour!**

**WILL YOUR REGISTRATION BE NEXT?**

**ALL INFO CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: [BERLINBRATS.ORG](http://BERLINBRATS.ORG)**



**Pictures are some of the sites you will see during the Reunion**



*Photos by: Greg Mattson '77*



Throwback pic: regional in Daytona Beach from 5 years ago this month:

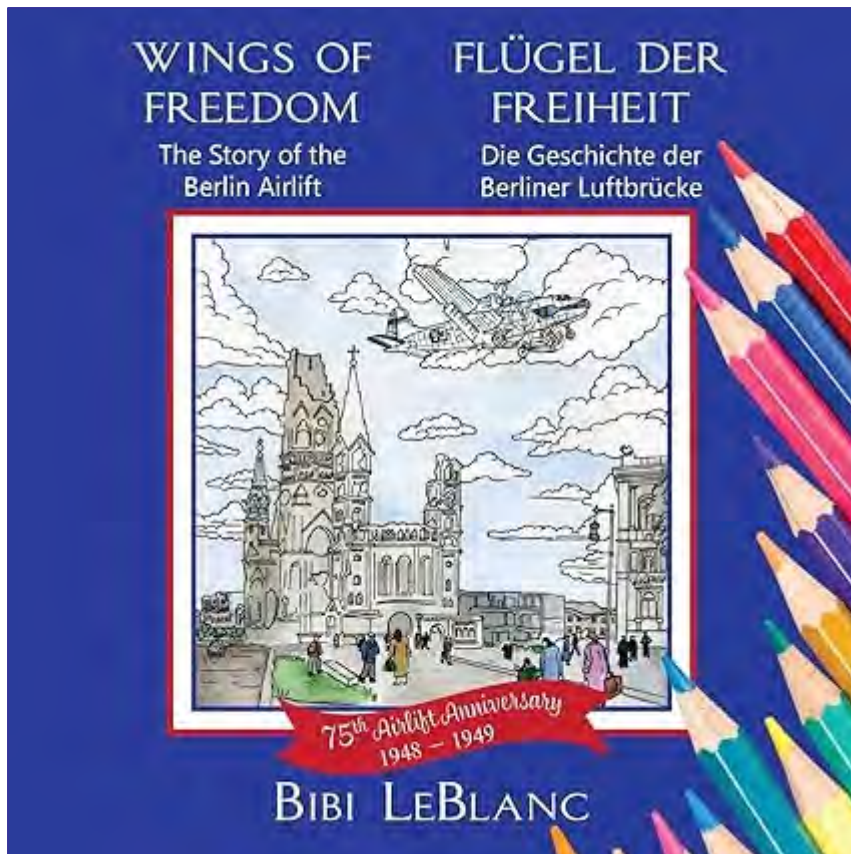


Slightly older Throwback pic:



**Sleepover!!!!**  
**Class of '80**  
**style:** Top: Mary McClain '80, Karla Saunders '80, Kim Hale '81, Brenda Lee '80 - Middle: ???, Karen Sellers '80, Karen Presley '80, Karen Reilly '80, Kendra Payne '80, Carla Sutcliff '80 - Floor: Susan Ude '80, and Connie Phillips '80





People often ask me why I created: "Wings of Freedom – The Story of the Berlin Airlift."

Truth be told, this book called out to me. The journey started with little puzzle pieces and moments of curiosity that slowly came together, leading me to dive deep into a story I thought I knew only in fragments. Before embarking on this journey, my knowledge of the Airlift was scant at best. I remember vividly telling my sister, "one day, I am going to create a coloring book about the 'Luftbrücke,' (air bridge) as we call it in German." It was a statement, driven more by intrigue over the tiny bits of knowledge I had about this historic event than knowledge and understanding. But as I delved into the research, a passion ignited within me. The more I learned, the more I realized how truly inspiring

the story of the Berlin Airlift is. This realization became a mission to share this remarkable tale of unity, determination, and hope. "Wings of Freedom" is the result of that mission, a tribute to the spirit of those who turned a critical moment in history into a legacy of courage and compassion. And now I am realizing the book is just the beginning. I have started speaking at schools in Germany and Norway to share this story. My sister Ina is going to tell the story at schools in Norway, and who knows where it will lead ... I hope this book inspires you as much as the story of the Airlift has inspired me. Let's remember and honor the incredible acts of collaboration that can change the world for the better. And never forget, each of us can shape the world, even the course of history with random acts of kindness. They don't have to be big, **sometimes all it takes are two sticks of gum.**

*Bibi LeBlanc - author*

Tempelhof's paternoster lift:



Since when did it have handles???  
Certainly doesn't look scary  
here.....

Throwback pic: Iconic photo – NVA soldier and David Bowie. Neue Wache, Unter den Linden, East Berlin, January 1977. David Bowie relocated to West Berlin in the fall of 1976 where he shared an apartment with Iggy Pop at 155 Hauptstrasse, Shöneberg close to the U-Bahn Kleistpark station. There is a memorial plaque in the front of the building. David and Iggy used to cross The Wall visiting art galleries and exploring a very different kind of Berlin than that in their surroundings in Schöneberg.

*Piotr Sym, FB 4/1/24*





### Did you know?

Rudolf Hess was the “sole inmate” at Spandau Prison? You probably did....but did you know this:

This brings back a memory for me. When I worked at the Berlin Brigade Commissary, the American Mess Sergeant would come in and purchase the food items the American military provided during their guard duty tour at Spandau Prison.

The Mess Sergeant would purchase numerous boxes of Ice Cream!! Almost exclusively-Vanilla Ice Cream. This was because Rudolf Hess had a stomach ulcer and could not handle normal, everyday meals. It seemed only Ice Cream would not irritate the stomach ulcer. American Milk was also purchased, along with Cottage Cheese, unflavored.

The Mess Sergeant also told me that Rudolf Hess would almost literally starve, because the Russian Guard delegation would give only basic, almost edible, foodstuffs, of which Rudolf Hess could not eat. When Hess would reach the starvation stage, the Russian guards would then give Hess what he could eat.

*David Fenrich '72 ('69-'72)*



Not “vanilla” but here’s an AAFES carton from the 1970s.



### Trabi Museum Berlin

Something fairly new for us to check out!  
 The first **Trabi Museum** in Berlin. Experience the world of the GDR Volkswagen right next to Checkpoint Charlie. Nostalgia guaranteed!



Drive the iconic East German car at "Trabi World/Safari " (next to the Museum). Drive a Trabant along the former Wall sights.

Select your **Trabi** from more than about 100 **Trabis**. The best way to see Berlin and Dresden. Get in and drive the **Trabi** yourself! **Go Trabi Go!**



Lance Srp '88 and his daughter Alexis (Right picture) did this at our 2014 Reunion. A bit of a tight squeeze for Lance – we dare say!  
 Hard to believe it's about 10 years ago!





(Continued from page 7)

## US military station: train delays on national holidays in the GDR

Like all West Berlin S-Bahn stations, Lichterfelde West was operated by employees of the Deutsche Reichsbahn under the sovereignty of the GDR until 1984 - of course strictly shielded from the military area of the US Army at the freight yard opposite. Across the tracks, representatives of the Western powers and the Eastern Bloc could eye each other with suspicion. And there were other complications. The train station secured Berlin's connection to the "Rhein-Main Air Base" in Frankfurt and the US

Navy base in Bremerhaven. The crew of a train included a platoon commander, a noncommissioned officer from the transport corps as conductor, an interpreter, two to three military police officers and a radio operator - who had to maintain contact with the headquarters in Berlin and the support department in Helmstedt during the journey. To cross the Soviet occupation zone, the shortest transit connection



between Berlin and Helmstedt, around 175 kilometers, was chosen. When traveling through the GDR, the trains had to be powered by locomotives from the German Reichsbahn. But there was a problem: On national holidays of the GDR - May 1<sup>st</sup> and Republic Day on October 7<sup>th</sup> - all locomotives of the Reichsbahn were traditionally decorated with the flags of the GDR and red flags. The US platoon commanders regularly took this as an affront. If they refused to continue under the GDR flag, the train had to be parked on a siding. At midnight the journey could then continue without flags.

## US military station: The "Amibahnhof" becomes a neighborhood attraction

Occasionally, various railcars were noticed at Lichterfelde West station - in particular an elegant, streamlined diesel train in red and white: the "General". It was primarily high-ranking officers who traveled in this comfortably equipped train. General cargo was unloaded and reloaded in the old freight yard next to the tracks. The sensitive cargo was often transported in special wagons, from whose windows accompanying military police could monitor the roofs of the train and the sides of the train, even while it was moving.

The RTO reception building and platforms were protected by US military police and German guards serving the US Army. The platform was strictly secured when the Berlin Brigade's "maneuver trains" were being processed and military vehicles or ammunition were being loaded and unloaded. At other times, the station was open to the public and a popular meeting place for young people and children in the neighborhood, who could buy American ice cream and drinks in the waiting and refreshment lounge.

The "Amibahnhof" became an integral part of the neighborhood: the taxi drivers at the stop in front of the train station were happy about the customers, and desperate farewell scenes often took place on the platforms when GI's were transferred from the capital and the neighborhood bars also had them adapted to the American clientele. The residents of the station were less happy when the loading of military goods necessitated a road closure.



## US military station: The American station becomes a "lost place"

For almost 50 years, US military trains ran at Lichterfelde West station, ensuring supplies for the US Army in West Berlin, before reunification and the withdrawal of Allied forces in the 1990s made the military station unnecessary. In 1990 the military trains stopped serving. When the Berlin Brigade was disbanded by US President Bill Clinton and the last US Army forces left Berlin in 1994, the RTO train station was also completely abandoned.

The platform on Ladestrasse became a deserted place and the US Army buildings sank into a long-term slumber before they almost completely had to give way to new development. In 2008, the functional buildings built by the Americans were demolished. In their place, a large organic market was built on the site. Today, only a section of the military platform with rail connections on both sides including the historic roof on Curtiusstrasse southwest of Lichterfelde West S-Bahn station has been preserved.

## US military station: And what does the future look like?

A citizens' initiative is committed to remembering the work of the US Army in Lichterfelde West. In 2023, the district council passed a resolution calling on the district office to work towards preserving the remaining remains of the US Army Rail Transportation Office at Lichterfelde West S-Bahn station. The platform and roof should be secured against frost for the winter in order to enable it to be placed under protection by the monument protection authority at a later date. The application is a first step towards placing the structure on Curtiusstrasse under monument protection and establishing a place of remembrance of the former military station at the site.



The Duty Train has fond memories for us Brats as we caught the train for all our "away games." In 2016, we held a Brats Regional at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum in Newport News, VA where one can step on board one of our trains! Such GREAT memories!!!





In honor of the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift** this year we have arranged an “optional add-on” private/guided tour of Tempelhof as part of our Reunion this December. Hugely popular as almost everyone who has registered for the Reunion has added this tour to their itinerary. We may have to cut off registration for this tour if the pace continues to this degree.

See our website: [BerlinBrats.org](http://BerlinBrats.org) for the Reunion Registration Itinerary & Registration Form, the Hotel Booking instructions, Additional tips, who’s already registered, etc.

### Upcoming Events

#### DoDDs & AOSHS Reunion

Lexington, KY  
July 15-19, 2024

[www.mydoddsreunion.com](http://www.mydoddsreunion.com)

#### OSB Gathering (Reunion)

Orlando, FL  
Aug 15-18, 2024

Web:

[https://www.classcreator.com/San-Antonio-Texas-Osb-1925/class\\_index.cfm](https://www.classcreator.com/San-Antonio-Texas-Osb-1925/class_index.cfm)

### REUNION:



December 2-5, 2024  
in Berlin

### Contact Information



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Find us on Facebook @

“Berlin Brats Alumni Association”

(the official fan page site)

“Berlin American High School (BAHS)”

(an open group chat page)

Newsletter Brat: Carl Fenstermacher '73

#### Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Mike Cleveland '61

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for an invite

#### American Overseas School Historical Society

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