



**Germany and Berlin** owe Queen Elizabeth II a lot. It was of immense importance especially for the freedom of Berlin. In the Cold War she always held firm to this city, but even after overcoming partition she remained a close friend. During her 70-year reign, she visited the city a total of seven times. Her visit remained outstanding in 1965, 20 years after the end of World War II as she came to the walled West Berlin and extended her hand for reconciliation.

In 1978, she renewed Britain's protection guarantee over Berlin: "My government and my people stand by your side. My soldiers and airmen stationed in Berlin embody the commitment of Britain to defend your liberty for as long as necessary until the wounds of division in Europe and in your city can be healed. "

Article courtesy of Allied Museum, Berlin



Brandenburger Tor is illuminated in honor of Queen Elizabeth II's passing on: 8 September 2022



## TEMPELHOF

**"Raisin bomber" pilot should get a monument in Berlin**

Berlin.de 5 May 2022

Colonel Gail Halvorsen died in February at the age of 101. Now he is to be honored with a monument at the Platz der Luftbrücke.

"Raisin bomber" pilot Gail Halvorsen is to be honored with a memorial at the Platz der Luftbrücke in Berlin-Tempelhof. "The planning for this has just begun," said a Senate spokeswoman on

Thursday. Halvorsen's family agrees with the memorial project. The "BZ" had previously reported about it. Berlin's governing mayor Franziska Giffey (SPD) condoled to the family in February after Halvorsen's death at the age of 101 and asked how she felt about the idea of honoring the former pilot of the airlift to Berlin with a monument, the spokeswoman said.



Gail Halvorsen, who became known as the "raisin bomber pilot", stands at the Airlift Memorial at the airport in Frankfurt am Main.  
Photo: dpa

In the meantime, the answer from Halvorsen's daughter Denise Williams has arrived at the Rotes Rathaus. "Finally, I would like to say that we fully support the establishment of a memorial in our father's honor," she wrote to Giffey. "Such a memorial would be a visible reminder for all people to learn from the past and look to the future with hope."

Halvorsen was one of the pilots who, a few years after the Second World War, supplied the western part of Berlin, which had been sealed off by the Soviet Union for ten months, from the air with food and coal, among other things. The blockade ended exactly 73 years ago, on May 12, 1949. It was Halvorsen's idea to drop sweets for children on small parachutes during the Berlin Airlift. As the "Candy Bomber," the young pilot became a symbol for the relief effort.

Among his many awards was the Federal Cross of Merit. He remained closely connected to Berlin for decades. He last visited the city at the age of 98, as a guest of honor at the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Airlift. **(Which 33 Berlin Brats attending a Berlin "regional" that weekend in the city where privy to VIP Invitations to attend and actually meet the Colonel).**

"Halvorsen's deeply human act has never been forgotten," Giffey said after his death in February. "He had many friends in our town and has kept coming here throughout his life."

According to the Senate spokeswoman, there is still no timetable for the memorial project. "The plans aren't quite there yet." An idea competition is planned for the design of the monument. Stay tuned as this further develops...

## Understanding the Berlin Airlift

by Will Morris  
Stripes Europe  
9 June 2022

The Berlin Airlift is remembered today as one of the greatest feats in the history of military aviation, accomplished in the face of overwhelming odds. The humanitarian operation became the United States' first major victory in the contest between East and West during the Cold War that would last for the next 50 years.

In the wake of World War II, Germany was a divided country and Berlin a divided city. In line with terms laid out in the Potsdam Agreement by the Allies, the U.K., U.S. and France took possession of the western half of Germany and the Soviet Union claimed the eastern half. Berlin, situated square in the middle of the eastern half of Germany, was divided in much the same fashion. The U.K., U.S. and the French wanted an independent, unified Germany based on a Western democratic model. But the Soviets seemed bent on punishing the Germans for the War and on creating a unified Germany to act as a puppet and buffer state against the West.

Three years after the end of the war, the German post-war economy was in shambles. People were unable to get adequate food and many still lived in the basements of bombed out buildings. The currency, the Reichsmark, placed into circulation during the war, was in free fall and people bartered with cigarettes instead.

On June 21, 1948, the Allies introduced the Deutsche Mark, over Soviet objections, to shore up the German economy. Despite the fact the Soviet military had introduced a currency into their sector and outlawed using other notes, the Deutsche Mark became the defacto currency in all four sectors of Berlin. Stalin, who had lost in his efforts to get Berliners to back a communist ticket in municipal elections two years prior, now faced the possibility of a Western orientated, economically viable Berlin that would always be in Eastern Germany. He decided it was time to break the backs of the Allies and force them out of the city. On June 24, the Soviets stopped all rail and barge traffic coming in and out of Berlin. Road traffic would soon follow. On June 25, the Soviets stopped all shipments of food from the Soviet to Western sectors.

At the time, West Berlin, a city of almost two-and-a-half-million people, had only 36 days' worth of food, and 45 days' worth of coal. People would start starving soon if the Allies didn't act quickly. From the beginning, the mission was daunting. On June 26, 1948, 32 C-47s, some still with markings left over from D-Day, took off for Berlin with 80 tons of cargo, food, milk and medicine. For weeks, the Allies struggled to deliver 1,000 tons of supplies a day. But that was a far cry from the 5,000 tons that the West Berliners needed. But after a wide series of innovations instituted by Maj. Gen. William Tunner, who took command of the operation on July 28, 1948, the airlift was transporting more than 4,500 tons of cargo a day.

Fight operations during the Airlift were thoroughly choreographed affairs conducted by pilots highly skilled in technical flying. A plane took off every three minutes from Wiesbaden and starting at 4,000 feet, took a slot in a "ladder" formation with other planes.

In addition to the hazards created by the nature and tempo of the operations, crews faced constant harassment in the air by the Soviets who were bent on seeing the alliance and the U.S. Air Force fail. The Soviets sent in Yak-3 fighters to buzz the cargo planes, when they weren't doing that, they were releasing weather balloons into plane formations or jamming communications. At night, Soviet ground crews would shine floodlights at the planes, temporarily blinding their pilots.

By April, as many as 8,800 tons of supplies were being delivered daily to Berlin, outstripping the freight capacity previously brought in by rail. Eventually the Soviets, knew they had been beaten, and decided to end the blockade on May 12, 1949. The Airlift officially ended months later on Sept. 30. In all, the Allies delivered 2,326,406 tons of supplies to Berlin. But the supplies came with a cost; 101 lives lost, 31 of them American.





## Tribute to Don Minium '67 - In honor of my old best friend.

When Don arrived in Berlin he was already captivated by music and his guitars. He had a drive to master being a lead guitarist and performing. Don practiced day and night and became an accomplished guitar player. Don recruited and taught me to be a (at best) mediocre rhythm guitar player. We started a band which ultimately we called the "New Generation". Members of the band besides Don and I included the legendary Pete Munoz '66 on drums, and Skip Brissette '67 (later died in an air crash) on bass guitar. John Phillips '68 took over at drums when Pete rotated out. Don was always the leader of the band and figured out how all the Chuck Berry, Rolling Stones, Animals, Kinks and other groups' songs should be played. We spent what seemed like thousands of hours in my basement at 12 Star Strasse practicing. Don loved performing and ripping through his guitar solos which we did at school dances and ultimately in some German clubs and gigs. We had one memorable night playing for a German party on a boat. It was a rocking evening and when they started giving us shots after every song, things got really hazy. I have a vague memory of Pete in a Messerschmidt being carried for a distance to put it back on some drivable road. Don's love of music continued his entire life to the very end. Professionally, he became an insurance executive and marketed insurance programs to contractors in the Southern California area. He also had a love of racing and at one point he had a bright red Ferrari with the license plate "RdRockt". For me Don will always be the "Leader of the Band". I would ask you to go online and listen to the track from Dan Fogelberg "Leader of the Band" for Don.

*Steve Denton '67*  
*JULY 12, 2022*



*Steve Denton on left and Don Minium on right.*

*Don passed in March 2022*

*On the far left:  
Skip Brissette,  
John Phillips on  
drums, Steven  
Denton (3rd  
from left) Don  
Minium on far  
right.*



*Don is on top with the rope around his neck. John, Skip and Steve on the bottom.*

## BAHS as it looks now.....July 2022 ...

pics by Martin Horst Eriksen '97



Front of BAHS ....notice the new tagging!



Back side.....(Cafeteria)





## Patricia (Geaney) Kerrigan '66 has a new book out:

### "HAMLET In Defense of the Faith"

Something about *Hamlet* remains elusive. Addressing those elements of the play that seem never quite fully or satisfactorily explained, this book demonstrates that the play is an allegory, and that it does, in fact, have one clear and discernible message. This message, hinted at enough to be conceivable, is veiled enough to have prevented a charge of treason when the play was produced on the London stage. Authentication of the playwright's meaning rests on familiarity with two ancient texts: fifth century works by a well-known figure, to whom the playwright purposefully directs one's attention after Hamlet's meeting with the Ghost in Act I.

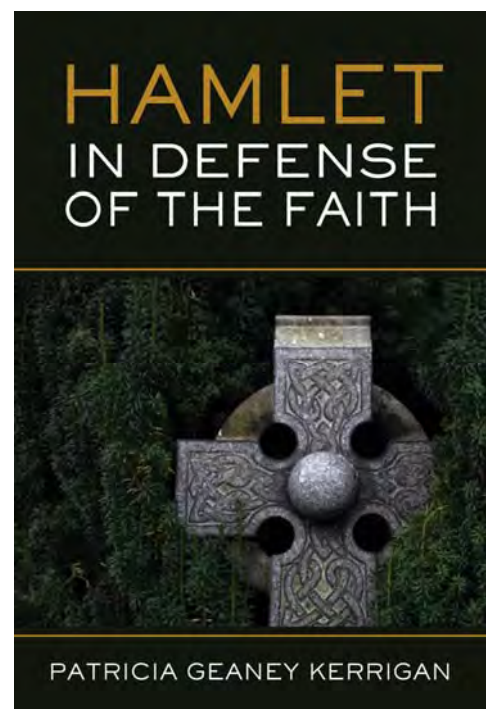
Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Pat in 2022



Pat in 1966



New digital artwork by Bryan Duckett '84:



## Berlin Youth Bowling Program – Jimmy White, Instructor '73-'76

Jim recently joined the "Berlin Brats Alumni Association" and shared some pictures along with names he remembers from the "traveling team."

Bill Tice '77  
 Alex Arnold '79  
 John Welty '77  
 Michael Buldowski '77  
 Steve McCarthy '77  
 Rod Martin '77  
 Lisa Astor '77  
 Brenda Motley '76  
 Kurt Brown '80  
 Mark Owen '76  
 Pat Diebold '79  
 Caroline Trautner '76  
 and Paul Arnold, asst. coach.

He'd "love" to hear from his team members.

Not much for emailing but here's his email and phone number:

sjwhite@q.com  
 218-631-3211



*Jim & Sandy - still smiling even after schlepping all over Germany with a bunch of teenagers!*



Jim and Sandy White





**JASPER KUMP performs in the Green Room in NYC!****Berlin Brat Returns to Music Scene in NYC - Others join him Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022**

In the photo (on the right) are three Berlin Brats, Linda (Kump) Simonsen '89, John "Jasper" Kump '87, and Shellie (Lamb) Iossa '89 and one set of Berlin Parents (my wife, Shirley and I). The occasion was a Jazz show featuring Jasper Kump. Several Berlin Brats streamed the performance in addition to those who attended in the photo.

*(Sorry, streaming no longer available per the Green Room).*

Late August saw the return of Berlin Brat, John "Jasper" Kump to the Cabaret music scene in New York City where he spent five years singing Jazz more than a decade before. Kump delivered his one-hour "The Best Is Yet to Come" show at the Green Room 42, in the



*Submitted by: Rev. J. B. Kump, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.) &  
Editor, BUSMVA "Observer" newsletter  
Photo credit: Shellie (Lamb) Iossa '89*



heart of the city's Theater District. Other Berlin Brats were in the audience to cheer him on (see group photo). One of those Brats was a surprise even to Kump.

Kump's show was named for and featured the title track from his recently released album and included other songs such as "Sunday In New York," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "It's Not Easy Being Green" and in a tribute to Mr. Rogers; "Won't You Be My Neighbor."

When Kump sang for President and Mrs. Reagan in 1987 at Tempelhof Central Airport during the city's 750th

anniversary celebration, the seed was planted for his music to play a forever part of Kump's life. That year, Kump had graduated from Berlin American High School where he played piano and sang an original musical piece for his classes graduation activities. During this show and on his latest release Jasper performed "Summertime" which he sang for President and Mrs. Reagan and over 7000 guests in Berlin.

Several fellow Brats were able to stream Kump's August 25th performance and one fellow classmate of Kump's; Shellie Iossa actually showed up in person for the performance; surprising the singer, his sister; Linda Simonsen, and his parents; retired Lt. Col J. B. Kump and his wife, Shirley.

In a performance one critic called "An evening of great pleasure." Kump was able to include other tributes, including one to Judy Garland who would have turned 100 years earlier this summer. For that tribute, Kump sang "Come Rain or Come Shine," a Harold Arlen song Garland had made famous. Kump also sang an original song; "Right Here, Right Now".

Kump lives near Beverly Hills in California where he is a Social Worker with the UCLA Health system and leads a team of clinicians providing support to patients with high risk/complex needs in primary care. He returned to Berlin in 2007 at the invitation of the government where he performed at the Allied Museum for the opening of its "Tear Down This Wall" exhibit 20 years after Reagan's famous speech.



## Rhode Island Regional Gathering, Providence, RI – 11 September 2022

### Group Photo L-R:

Danny Shenefield '74 (letter jacket and guest Kim)  
 Alex Burke '89  
 Paola Meimaris '79  
 Tammie Kaman '88 and husband Neil  
 Carolyn (Sweeney) Davidson '77 and husband Steve  
 Patrick Kerrigan (spouse)  
 Patricia (Geaney) Kerrigan '66  
 Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72



Patricia (Geaney) Kerrigan '66 and husband Patrick



Alex Burke '89, Paola Meimaris '79, Tammie Kaman '88 and husband Neil



Neil (spouse of Tammie Kaman '88), Carolyn (Sweeney) Davidson '77 and spouse Steve



Danny Schenefield '74 with letterjacket and guest Kim



## Did you know??

### Berlin S-Bahn

Commuter trains in Berlin are called S-Bahns (fast trains). They typically operate at or above grade.

Each S-Bahn line is assigned an identifier that includes the letter "S" followed by a number (e.g. S1, S2). There are approximately 16 lines in total.

Five of the S-Bahn lines follow the same route through the city centre (i.e. from Westkreuz Station to Ostkreuz Station).

Although the Berlin S-Bahn system is run by a separate company from the one that operates the main transit system, passengers can use the same ticket.



*S-Bahn Train, Berlin Germany*

Zeppelin's longest ever performance of "Stairway To Heaven" was their last gig in Berlin in 1980. It clocked in around 15 minutes long.





## Las Vegas Regional Gathering, Las Vegas NV – 25 September 2022

### Guests:

Deb (Henson) Winchester '67 - Yamato

Judy (Kosan) Bygott '72 - Karlsruhe

Diana (Bock) DuPree '75 - Nürnberg

Dan Smith '77 - Munich

### Berlin Brats:

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

Jim Wright '72 and wife Jackie

Mikel McPherson '74

Valerie (Jackson) Towns '80 and husband Doug

William Pollard '83

Chris Fowler '84 and Lori



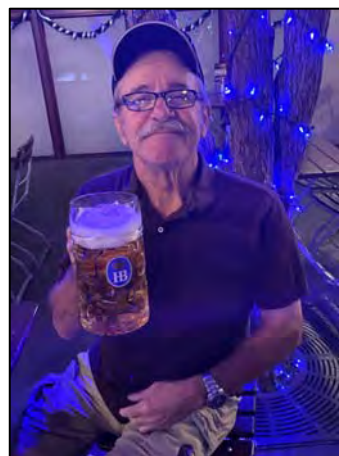
Group Photo



Deb (Henson) Winchester, Valerie (Jackson) Towns '80, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Judy (Kosan) Bygott



Jim Wright '72 with wife Jackie and Mikel McPherson '74



Mikel McPherson '74





Doug Towns (spouse) and William Pollard '83



Diana Dupree, Chris Fowler '84 and Lori



Hofbräuhaus Horns

"Drink a bier,  
and you worry  
no more."





## Berlin's Medieval Origins (A Letter From Germany)

In the midst of modern construction, archaeologists search for evidence of the city's earliest days

By ANDREW CURRY (September/October 2022)

In the center of Berlin, archaeologists are unearthing 800 years of history, from the



foundations of an early medieval church to a 19th-century electrical plant. "Letter from Germany: Berlin's Medieval Origins" follows the researchers as they recover evidence of the city's little-known early years in the midst of modern construction.

[Full Article at Archeaology.org](https://www.archaeology.org/stories/letter-from-germany-berlins-medieval-origins)  
[CLICK HERE](#)

(if you are reading this while connected to the internet)

*Courtesy Landesdenkmalamt Berlin/Michael Malliaris*

A large-scale excavation in the middle of Berlin has uncovered artifacts and structures dating back eight centuries, including the foundations and machinery of the city's first electrical plant, which was built in the late nineteenth century.

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Have you seen the Berlin Airlift Medal?





# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



I found the baby of another Berlin Brat today.  
Frank Davis '87 I'll make sure she's taken care of.

Xaria Davis is Frank's daughter and she is in my unit!



Small, small world

*By: Kerry Lastra '84*



Brat get-together....in all  
places....KILIMANJARO!!!!

(What Brats won't do.....)

The journey – the trek – begins for  
these guys....Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rob Ahrens '87  
Lee Wymer (spouse of Karrie (Kotcher)  
Wymer '86) and Jeff Hoss '87.



Melbourne, FL link up – Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Frank Danesy '75 JFK, Pat (Martel) Little '72,  
and Marvin Lindroth '75, enjoying each other's  
company at Grille's in Melbourne, FL!

Picture taken by Marvin's wife Ximena.



# MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

**Berlin/Karlsruhe Luncheon – August 28, 2022**

Deb (Brians) Clark, our Class Contact for '74, holds periodic "German Luncheons" at the infamous Waldhorn Restaurant in Pineville/Charlotte, NC. This time invites went out to some local Karlsruhe Brats to join the Berliners.



"We all had a blast. In the pic, from left around the table is Greg DeCicco, husband of Candace Wyman '73; Mishiko Nielsen '71, Karlsruhe; Tony Dick '80, Karlsruhe; Michael Clark, spouse of Deb (Brians) Clark ; Bryan Duckett '84; Deb (Brians) Clark '74; and Candace Wyman '73. After lunch Candace said, "I know we are all Brats, but gosh, we are all such interesting people." We had a great time!"

*Submitted by: Deb (Brians) Clark '74*



A lot going on in this pic...old, new, Tacoma, Berlin, Army, Navy....worlds colliding

*Kristy O'Hearne '86*

In Seattle and Tacoma, WA for the weekend Aug 13-14<sup>th</sup>.....

with Tammy Stoeber '85 (front/blue) Kristy '86 to her left.



Remember these stickers?



## STILL MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Marc Abrams '86's European vacation takes in Berlin (of course) and Prague. While in Prague he links up with resident extraordinaire Carl Marvin '87. (10 August 2022)



Marc and wife Stephanie

Carl, Marc and Stephanie enjoying a Pils.



Carl Marvin '87





## Throwback pics.....

### 1986 Reunion in Virginia Beach....the 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion!

Jeanine (St Pierre) Schiavoni '73 , Mary (Lee) Kozak '73 and Bev (Owens) Arnold '73.....poolside...and best buds at BAHS!



Fast forward Mary Lee's granddaughter was just awarded a "BB Scholarship" at our COS Reunion on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022!

Congratulations granddaughter "Maggie" and Mary Lee.....who could have ever dreamed this up?! From 7<sup>th</sup> grade ('67-'69) in Berlin, to the '86 Berlin Reunion....to the '22 Reunion and a Scholarship?!



Carl Fenstermacher '73 in Berlin's Olympic Stadium April 1970 in a soccer game against Bad Kreuznach.

As a Fullback he was alone "out-standing" in the field.  
Berlin 3 – 0



Submitted by: Jerry Scruggs '80

## Another Throwback pic....

Regarding a recent question about kindergarten in Berlin, Kevin and I attended in the first floor of the two high-rise buildings at Sundgauer Strasse. I don't know if Katrin attended there, too. I discovered that at least two of my classmates from 1975 attended kindergarten there, too: Mike Ferris and Kim Jones.

If you want to go further, I attended nursery school at the US Army Hospital. It was in a building wing with access to a grassy area for play.



A topic that can be written about is our military buses. They were of better quality than the buses at other Germany bases, because they were Mercedes. If I remember right, we got the better buses not only because of the subsidies we got from the Berlin government, but also my father's request to buy them, citing lower maintenance costs, which in the long term, resulted in savings. The buses that weren't Mercedes were high maintenance prone.

For fun, I am sending a picture of Katrin's birthday in June 1953 at the US Army Hospital in Berlin. The people in the front are maternal grandfather Eugen, mother Dorrit, and father Ensio.

*Marvin Lindroth '75*

### A BRAT "OVERSEAS VACATION"



### A BRAT "STATESIDE VACATION"





**Friends of Berlin, Germany / Freunde von Berlin, Deutschland****Matt Robinson**

The Brandenburg Gate (1961-2022)

Past & Present

Facebook 27 April 2022

In planning the construction of the Berlin Wall (codename Operation Rose) in August 1961, East German advisors mapped every inch of the internal border between West and East Berlin (around 45km) and the remaining stretch that separated West Berlin from the countryside of the neighboring East German state of Brandenburg.

This spot - the Brandenburg Gate - would end up in the 'death strip' of that zone from 1961 until 1989. Initially barbed wire, then wall, and eventually a full area of obstacles and traps.

Three weeks before the solidification of this frontier began, the East German technocrat and carpenter responsible for the department that oversaw the preparations reported to his superior about the material shortages of necessary supplies.

Fifty-six-year-old Bruno Wansierski would be one of the few people in the country familiar with the extent of the project, in his capacity as director of the Department for Security Questions of the Socialist Unity Party's Central Committee. Not only would this mammoth

undertaking require barbed wire, but also concrete pillars, metal cramps, connecting wire, mesh wire, and timber. Trucks from the industrial town of Eisenhüttenstadt near the Polish border had already brought in hundreds of concrete pillars and stockpiled them in a police barracks in the district of Pankow. But the remaining supplies necessary would have to be gathered in secret, as such not to draw the attention of the prying eyes of the West, or give any indication to the people of East Germany of what was to come.

Much of the barbed wire required for this initial phase would be bought in bulk from several different manufacturers in West Germany and in Great Britain. To avoid suspicion whilst planning to envelop West Berlin it was seen as necessary to distribute the acquisition of the quantity needed to a number of innocuous looking East German purchasers, who negotiated the deals directly. Echoing the prediction commonly attributed to Vladimir Lenin: "The capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them." Albeit, with one significant perversion, the rope would be used to suffocate nearly 18 million East Germans.

*Images: CIA/Matt Robinson*



## The Legacy lives on!

Even with Col Halvorsen's passing in February, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual candy drop in Manteo, NC will take place. It's also the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.

Come visit the Spirit of Freedom (the C-54), meet the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation crew and come meet and hear Karin Edmond's story. Born and raised in Berlin, Karin was a young recipient of the Candy Bomber's candied parachutes!

Find out how she met the Colonel and continued their life long friendship speaking to him just minutes before he passed.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Manteo Airport**

<http://www.spiritoffreedom.org/>



### The history of the 298<sup>th</sup> Army Band Berlin Brigade

On May 01, 1945, the 298<sup>th</sup> band was attached to General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters in London, England.

The band had come from London, known as the European Theater of Operations (ETO) Band. On an official War Department basis, however, the band, numbering 56 musicians, had been split into two 28-men bands. The designators were the 300<sup>th</sup> Infantry Band and the 298<sup>th</sup> Infantry Bands. For all intents and purposes, the two bands were actually one. But this is the origination of the 298<sup>th</sup> designator. At some point in history, the 300<sup>th</sup> designator was dropped. They

played at all ceremonies and gave many concerts.

On July 04, 1945, the 298<sup>th</sup> Band arrived with the 2nd Armored Division at their new duty station in West Berlin. That same day the United States Army moved into the American Sector of West Berlin. Soviet Army withdrew out of the American Sector. The American Sector had districts of Steglitz, Schöneberg, Tempelhof, Neukölln, Zehlendorf, and Kreuzberg. Later, the band was attached to the First Airborne Army.

*Continued next page*





The 298<sup>th</sup> Band with 28 band service members played at changeover ceremonies at Andrew Barracks. On April 3, 1947, the band played for General Lucius D. Clay when he arrived to become High Commissioner in Berlin.

On July 15, 1961, the band played for the first Berlin American and German folk festival. This first folk festival was closed down on August 13, 1961, because this was the day of the beginning of the construction of the Berlin Wall.

On September 19, 1961, the band played for General Lucius D. Clay again because he returned as the late President Kennedy's special representative to West Berlin. During the Summer of 1965, Queen Elizabeth came to Berlin's Gatow Airport to attend the first British "Tattoo" in Berlin. The 298<sup>th</sup> Berlin Brigade Band performed with the Berlin-based British Army Band.

The 298<sup>th</sup> Band served as Berlin Brigade's prime unit in building German-American relations. Its success was measured in part by the fact that the brigade enjoyed one of the warmest local community relations of any command in the Army. To achieve that end the band played an extensive concert schedule, and West Berliners had frequent opportunities to see and hear them perform through the years. Among the annual events in which the band participated were the Allied Forces Day Parade, the West Berlin Police Show, the American community's Berlin Easter Sunrise Service, the Independence Day Parade, the extensive Berlin district Friendship Days, the Berlin Airlift Memorial ceremony at Tempelhof Central Airport, summer concerts, and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the U. S. Headquarters, Berlin.



All of these events as well as many others were open to the public and were always well received. One of the best known of all the programs in which the band participated was the annual German-American Volksfest. The musicians' rigorous Volksfest schedule of nearly 60 commitments included playing for the opening and closing ceremonies and concerts, and supporting various musical activities staged by other elements in the command. At the Volksfest, the band provided the music for each year's theme. The schedule involved two performances nightly for 17 days, not including the other Volksfest commitments and command activities.

On July 06, 1994, the 298<sup>th</sup> Berlin Brigade Band was officially inactivated by President Bill Clinton.

**The 298<sup>th</sup> Band was the oldest unit in the Berlin Brigade!**

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#### Random item:

I enjoyed reading the newsletter (April 2022).

Fun fact - I, too, attended kindergarten and first grade at TAR in 1965-1967, and then returned in 1974 as a Freshman and graduated from BAHS in 1978!

*Dee (Cook) Pallesen '78*

## FAST FOOD ARRIVES.....



#FlashbackFriday to 3 August 1984 — Burger King on a military installation in Kaserne in Ansbach, Germany.

38 years ago — the first franchised Europe opened at the Katterbach

Customers were greeted by a marquee that read, "Iron Soldiers Get It Their Way." Lots of Soldiers and their families wanted it their way on opening day, as more than 400 customers were served during the first hour and 4,000 were served before the day was over.

Three months earlier, Burger King signed a five-year franchise agreement to test Burger King outlets at selected military installations worldwide. Those five years has turned into nearly 40 with the Exchange, and they're not kidding about "worldwide": The Exchange has operated Burger Kings—sometimes as mobile units—all over the world, including in Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Iraq and Kosovo. There's even one on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, nearly 2,500 miles west of Hawaii.

As of this month there are 746 Burger Kings in Germany. Berlin is the German city with the most BKs with 28! Thus, far surpassing the 2<sup>nd</sup> city of Hamburg with 19.



Remaining and random "Wall" near a cemetery in Berlin.

*Marc Abram's '86 Berlin trip*

The Berlin Bear has been cited at the Ft. Lauderdale City Hall



"To the people of the United States of America in gratitude for their aid, friendship and protection. Presented to the City of Fort Lauderdale by the people of Free Berlin."



## REFLECTIONS

Reflections on my childhood and although my daughter and her older brothers had some challenges also we're trying our best to keep those to a minimum with our little guys future upbringing. I do believe mine to be a bit unique with being the oldest of 5 on a soldiers salary moving every 2 years on the average with stops on the east/west coasts, the Americas and Europe for 7 years plus. All sorts of friends made from all sorts of religions and ethnicities; civilians and military brats with the poorest of the poor to the super rich and everything in between. So much diversity in cultures, thought processes, landscapes. Wouldn't change it for the world. This is a picture a friend's mom took of our Mercedes school buses picking up (dropping off?) school classmates. Armed escorts had mounted M60's and M-16's to ward off any potential threats made directly from



Gaddafi of Libya after USA had carried out an air strike on Libya in response to the Berlin La Belle discothèque bombing in 1986. Some of my father's troops had been injured and three lost their lives (two US soldiers and a civilian) in this terrorist attack. Martial law, curfews and ID checks all seemed as normal as picking out your next day's outfit. So many stories just in this one 4 year stop for me that a fellow alumnus has published a book on our adventures there over the years. Adventurous memories for sure.

*submitted by Lance Srp '88*

## Gas shortage....will affect your trip to Berlin.

Sadly, with the Russians cutting off some gas supplies to EU countries.....the EU has asked their members to reduce their gas consumption by 15% - Germany will probably have to save more.

Berlin has decided to switch off the lights at 200 tourist attractions.

.....landmarks such as the Siegessäule remain in the dark



© Paul Zinken/dpa/picture alliance

### Upcoming Events

#### 2022 Regionals:

19 November  
Phoenix, AZ  
Edelweiss Biergarten  
More details at  
[www.BerlinBrats.org](http://www.BerlinBrats.org)

**DODDS & AOSHS Reunion**  
**12-16 July 2023**  
**Omaha, NE**

**OSB Gathering (Reunion)**  
**19-22 Oct. 2023**  
**San Antonio, TX**

#### Next Reunion

**Summer of 2025**  
**As we rotate "east"**

[www.BerlinBrats.org](http://www.BerlinBrats.org)

### Contact Information



#### Berlin Brats Alumni Association

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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 Jim Branson '64  
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for an invite

#### American Overseas School Historical Society

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website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

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