



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

July 2023

Volume 19, Issue 3



It's been 25 YEARS for the ALLIED MUSEUM! (17 Years since we opened the Exhibit: Berlin American High School 1946-1994)

How the time goes by. Twenty-Five years ago on the 27th of June, the first permanent exhibition of the Allied Museum opened in 1998.

Even during the withdrawal of the Western powers from Berlin, it was decided that a museum should document the engagement of the Allies. As a temporary exhibition location, the Outpost Cinema and the Nicholson Memorial Library offered themselves not far from the former American headquarters. The project was of international significance. In addition to the Federal Republic and the county of Berlin, the United States, France and Great Britain were (and still are) in the carrier association. No surprise that Chancellor Helmut Kohl, most of all, opened the first special exhibition: "More than a suitcase remains".

The collection was and is equally international: Whether a railway wagon of the French military government (ie: the French duty train), the original facade of Checkpoint Charlie or an air bridge aircraft of the British, the museum received significant support from the Allies. This was followed by countless personal gifts from time to time.

On the 27th of June 1998 it was finally time. The first permanent exhibition on allied history titled "How Enemies Became Friends" opened its doors to its guests. The interest was considerable and already after three months the museum had over 70,000 visitors.

The Berlin Brats 1st Reunion IN BERLIN in the summer of 2006, featured a full day at the Allied Museum. We cut the ribbon on the exhibit based on us entitled: "Berlin American High School 1946-1994."

Our 2006 Reunion Logo



401 of us in attendance!

The Allied Museum announcement:

Originally our exhibit was scheduled to run for 6 weeks but due to it's popularity with the German public it actually remained open for 6 months!



JULY 29, 2006 – OCTOBER 24, 2006

Special Exhibition on the History of the Berlin American High School 1946-1994

July 28th will be a lively day at the Allied Museum, when former students of the Berlin American High School return to their old haunts.

The school was closed down when the Allies left Berlin in late summer 1994. As usual in the USA, the young Americans founded an alumni association, which bears the proudly ironic name of "Berlin Brats". This year, for the first time, the association is holding its traditional annual reunion in Berlin. Several hundred alumni are expected to attend. The venue will be the Allied Museum, which is taking the occasion of the visit by the "Berlin Brats" to explore the history of the school in cooperation with alumni and teachers. Many thousands of American students received their high school diplomas in Berlin. What became of them? What impressions do they retain of their school days in the "outpost" of freedom, as Americans called Berlin during the Cold War era?

The American base in Berlin offered the children of military families a complete education within the American school system. As was the case for other major U.S. military bases, the Pentagon was the responsible school authority. Only one year after the Second World War ended, instruction began in a requisitioned German school building in the Dahlem district. In 1953, the Thomas A. Roberts School moved to a new purpose-built school building on Hüttenweg. In 1965, the Berlin American High School then moved to its final location with the address Am Hegewinkel. After the withdrawal of American troops from Berlin the Wilma-Rudolph-Oberschule took over the school building.

The planned exhibition seeks to document the history of the American High School, to recall its teachers and students and school life, and to present its peculiarities as well as noteworthy events. Its location in the Four Sector City and one of the focal points of the Cold War made the Berlin American High School unique.

And yet the American base was a world largely cut off from its surroundings, which because of security concerns but also language barriers did little to promote German-American contacts. The example of the high school students will provide closer insights into this "Little America". Former pupils as well as teachers have provided the objects for the exhibition.



East German Guard Tower on the grounds with the British Airlift plane and 4 Sections of the Wall.



The exhibit showcased a typical "Senior Locker" on the ground floor of BAHS. Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 pointing to the '83 Letterjacket

75th Anniversary of the Airlift begins....

(Officially June 24th, 1948 to May 12th, 1949)

Starting this June....continuing the length of the Airlift period...culminating in the Tempelhof Airlift Memorial ceremony in May 2024.



As we are currently in the 75th year of the beginning of the Berlin airlift and we commemorate this historic occasion, the City of Berlin is hosting a wide range of events - including the exhibition "Blockierte Sieger – Geteiltes Berlin. 75 Jahre Luftbrücke", which translates to Blockaded victors - Divided Berlin. 75 years Airlift. The open air exhibition is organized by Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr - Flugplatz Berlin Gatow, Alliierten Museum and Museum Berlin-Karlshorst and held at - unsurprisingly - Tempelhof Airport.

In Frankfurt/Rhein-Main: the HALVORSEN family attends:

"May the extraordinary legacy of cooperation of the Berlin Airlift, built on the rubble of what came earlier, inspire us, and future generations, to continue our efforts, to defend democracy: to fight for it, strengthen it, renew it. ", CG Scharpf said during the 75th Commemoration event at the Berlin Airlift Memorial at Frankfurt Airport.



Together with Hessen Ministerpräsident Boris Rhein, Fraport CEO Dr. Stefan Schulte as well as representatives from the United Kingdom and France, and guests from political offices, German and American military, we also honored "Candy Bomber" Gail Halverson.

His family joined the event, speaking about how we should all continue to lead by Gail's example of commitment, support and understanding.

The final ceremony, in May 2024, will be in the City of Berlin @ Tempelhof's Air Brücke.

The City along with the Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation will be planning events based on the 75-year anniversary.



Halvorsen family.....Marilyn '73 second from left. Robert Halvorsen '75 in dark glasses. Mike Halvorsen '80 TAR far right.

Five years ago, May 12th, 2019, in honor of the 70th Anniversary, the Berlin Brats secured 33 private invitations to the City's culminating ceremony at Tempelhof followed by a private luncheon. Col Halvorsen a/k/a the Candy Bomber was in attendance with us.



70th Anniversary w/Berlin Brats,
May 12th, 2019

Berlin Airlift history....

The Berlin Airlift was one of the most complex times in American History. When the Russians "land blockaded" the City of West Berlin in 1948 2.2 million people were left with nothing but water.

The British and Americans started flying from their bases in West Germany into the divided city that was deep in the Russian Zone of a divided country. Coal and flour were only 75 percent of what their former enemies began supplying to Berliners using with two engine C-47 aircraft with only a two-ton load capacity, but a month later 80 larger, 4 engine C-54s had joined the American fleet and 40 British "York" freighters began landing in Berlin in 3-to-4-minute intervals. The fleet of aircraft grew until over 375 were being used landing every three minutes.

The people in West Berlin survived in basements of buildings destroyed by 4 years of bombing and almost a month of Russian fighting followed by two months of brutality and deprivation. The city was filled with people living in fear. Fear of the Russian propaganda telling them that the British and Americans were going to desert them. Fear of having no food, water or electricity and fear that the sound of aircraft would disappear leading to the Russians taking over the city. Then little homemade parachutes with gum and candy attached began to fall from the same airplanes delivering life's essentials, giving them confidence that the allies were not going to forsake them. **That's the Berlin Airlift!**

It doesn't get much attention in history books in schools or colleges and that's for one of two reasons. The first is because it was successful, had it failed the world we know today would be quite different with the Russian sphere extending to the English Channel.

There would be no NATO, no Euro currency, no Airbus Industries, no Chunnel connecting England and France, and no worldwide industrial or commercial commerce with Western European nations.

The second reason is that it was overshadowed by the Korean War less than a year after the last Berlin Airlift flight. Then Vietnam and the collection of conflicts where the U.S. and Russia provided the weapons for other countries soldiers to fight and die. The Berlin Airlift was the most significant non-combat military operation of the 20th century stopping the spread of Stalin's Communism in Western Europe.

The 75th is a real cause for celebration, and a time to pay respectful tribute to the 90+ persons that died during the 15 months of the Berlin Airlift.

Here's what precipitated "the Airlift":

April 1948

Soviets assert a right to board trains for Berlin to inspect freight and check identity papers and also close roads to Berlin. General Clay and British General Sir Brian H. Robertson sent 5 trains toward Berlin to test Soviet resolve. Four trains were stopped, then backed up to their zone by Soviet engines. One American trainmaster allows the search and proceeds to Berlin. General Clay orders all trains stopped.

From April onwards Western licensed barge skippers on the German-wide network of canals are detained "because their papers are not in order". Barge traffic is brought to a standstill.

General Clay orders what became the "Little Lift". The first of 10 C-47s called "Clays Pigeons" of the 1st Troop Carrier Squadron fly the first mission carrying supplies for our garrison and their dependents. They fly continuously to supply 80 tons a day for 10 days. The British do the same.

A Soviet Yak-3 propeller fighter collides with a British European Airways (BEA) Vickers VC.1B Viking airliner flying into Berlin's Gatow airport. 14 passengers, the crew and the Yak pilot are killed. The Soviets deny responsibility and accept only Russian eyewitness accounts.

Rail routes to Berlin-Hamburg and Berlin-Bavaria are closed leaving only the Berlin-Helmstedt line open. The British military freight-train service between the West and Berlin is barred by Soviet authorities unless each individual item of cargo has Russian clearance.

The Soviets allow trains to Berlin and the airlift stands down but continues 20 C-47 missions a day in case of another ground access stoppage. Both American and British increase the daily ground shipments of coal & flour to build up Berlin supplies. 2/3 goes in by barge from the British zone. The Brits continue an airlift and fly 65 tons a day using C-47s.

Soviet fighters make passes at aircraft in the corridor. Tension in Berlin is high as kidnapping and theft by Soviets continue in allied sectors. They propagandize that the allies will leave Berlin.

France agrees to merge their zone with British and Americans as the allies reconvene the London conference toward West German and West Berlin governments. New Soviet rules for the documentation of Rail Cars are ignored.

(Continued page 22)

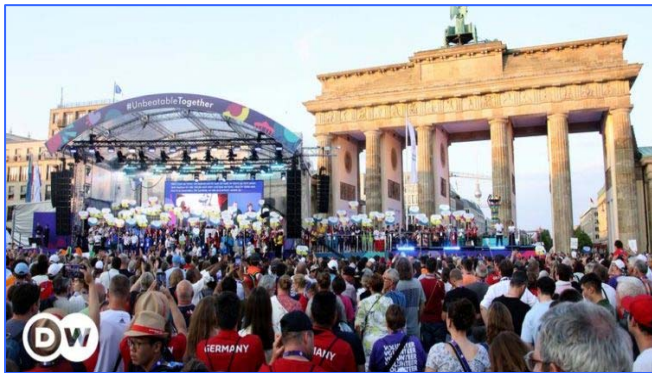
Special Olympics World Games Held in Berlin 2023

The **Special Olympics World Games** are the world's largest inclusive sports event. Thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities competed together in 28 sports. Nine days of exciting and inspiring competitions, by athletes and for athletes.



From **17 to 25 June 2023**, the Special Olympics World Games took place in Berlin – the first time that Germany has hosted the Games!

Some 330,000 attended the Games. 201 Athletes, Coaches and Staff represented the United States at the Games.



Festivities at the "Gate"



2023 Gold Medal





Special thanks to Deb (Brians) Clark '74 for the submission!!

Stadium 2023

The last Olympics of any kind was held at the Stadium in 1936 – pictured here the East Gate in '36.



Some of Team USA athletes



There were competitions held across 28 sports - athletics, badminton, basketball, basketball 3x3, beach volleyball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, football, foosball, golf, gymnastics-artistic, gymnastics-rhythmic, handball, hockey, judo, kayaking, open water swimming, power lifting, roller skating, rowing, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon, and volleyball. [Hockey and rowing were demonstration sports].

Speaking of Olympics – How about our very own Brats pairing up for the San Diego Half Marathon, June 4, 2023!



Julie and Kristy represent!!!!
(....a first for Kristy!)



25th year for the Marathon!



Nick & Julie (Davis) Morris '87 and Kristy O'Hearne '86
& hubby Doug Small

The older "Spirit of Freedom" has a new mission



April 26, 2023.....it's now on it's way to it's new home:

Aviator Brewing Company

C54 Berlin Airlift Candy Bomber Loaded Up and on the way to the brewery!

Will be installed on the new brewery site! Will be a bar!

April 28th, 2023 the C54 arrives at its new home, the brewery!



Come see the C54 at the brewery! Cold beer(s) are waiting for you!
Aviator Brewing Co.
209 Technology Park Ln
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

Originally, visitors from near and far traveled to the quaint little town near Raleigh seeking the healing powers of the Fuquay mineral spring. Today, Fuquay-Varina, located just 15 minutes south of the capital city, Raleigh, is paradise for fans of craft beers, with Aviator Brewing Company, The Mason Jar Lager Company and Fainting Goat Brewing Company all within a short distance. Do we see a Berlin "regional" here in our future?

GARY POWERS, JR – COLD WAR ESPIONAGE TOUR

Berlin Brat, Matt Schneider '72 and family were tour participants of Gary's hosted tour of March 19-28th to Germany and the Czech Republic.

The tour included round trip airfare from Washington, DC, full-time CHA Tour Director, 3-star and 4-star hotel accommodations, two meals daily, guided sightseeing and walking tours, transportation by private motorcoach, and entrance fees to special attractions. Cities visited included Berlin (3 nights), Dresden (1 night), Pilsen (2 nights), Stuttgart (1 night), Nuremburg, and Heidelberg (1 night). While in Berlin the group visited the Berlin Wall Monument, the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, the Allied Museum, German Spy Museum, the Military History Museum Gatow, the Glienicke Bridge (Bridge of Spies), the Hohenschoenhausen Memorial, formerly the Stasi's main political prison, and the Berlin Stasi Museum housed in the former headquarters of the Minister of State Security.

Tour participants at the Allied Museum – Berlin Wall sections.....



While in Leipzig and Dresden the group visited the Museum in Der Runden housed in the city's former Stasi headquarters, the Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History Museum which chronicles the history of the GDR from the beginning of the Cold War to the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the country's peaceful revolution and reunification, the Dresden's Military History



Matt Schneider '72 and wife Pam on left side of bus.



Berlin Bear @ Allied Museum (formerly the Outpost Theatre)

Museum and the Bautzner Strasse Dresden Memorial. While in Prague and Pilsen the group visited Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral and the city's remarkable astronomical clock as well as the Prague Museum of Communism and the Vitkov Hill Nuclear Bunker. One of the highlights was visiting the Atom Muzeum (Atom Museum) in Misov and eating at the Misov Grill. While in Stuttgart and Nuremburg, the

group visited the Stuttgart Cold War Bunker, Speyer Museum of Technology, Technik Museum in Sinsheim, and the Nuremburg Court House.

If interested Gary's "NEXT" Cold War Espionage Tour will be of Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary that is scheduled for late April 2024. More information will be available after July 1st.

It seems so many are doing the “Camino de Santiago”...ie: their personal Olympics...

What is the Camino de Santiago?



The Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James, is a renowned pilgrimage of medieval origin that sees pilgrims journey to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in the northwest of Spain.

Legend has it that the remains of the Apostle St. James the Great were buried in the Cathedral and discovered by a shepherd in the 9th century. The city of Santiago is named after St. James: Santiago de Compostela means St. James of the Field of Stars. If you're a history buff, make sure you discover the history of the Camino. Due to the popularity of the Camino de Santiago and the many Camino routes, they have been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. The Camino's essential role has encouraged cultural exchanges between people from all over Europe and the world for many centuries.

Where does the Camino de Santiago start?

There is actually no singular starting point for the Camino de Santiago. There are many different routes to Santiago and in turn many starting points. The route you take depends entirely on you. The reason for the huge variety in starting points is that the original pilgrims would have commenced their Camino journeys from

their own homes. So that's why so many different Camino ways have emerged over the centuries. Despite this, there has been a clear favorite among the routes. The Camino Frances, also known as the French Way, is the most famous and most popular of the Camino routes. The Camino Portugues Coastal is the second most popular route.

Berlin is only 2,136 km
(on the above trail's signage)



Kelly (Murphy) Waymire '82 and hubby Lee did the Portuguese trail in May and early June.

"WE DID IT!!!! 180 miles!!
13 days (11 walking, 2 resting), 2 blisters, 1,000+ cappuccinos, new friends from around the world, 2 Compostela's, and the obligatory picture in front of the Cathedral".



Here our Brat Terry (Tee Louise) (Moorman) Bowers '80...started in France (doing the Frances trail) completing 490 miles.



WELL DONE BRATS!!



BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

May 2023 in Chicago: Michael "Smurf" James '87 and his wife Tania (center) link up with Katherine Young '86 and her fiancé James Caruso. James Moulang, Atlas first officer, colleague of Smurf, was on a Chicago layover and joined them is on the right.



Kendra (Payne) Morgan '80 links up with Cindy (Grey) Mitchell '79 on her Wilmington, NC trip. WE LOVE THAT BERLIN ATTIRE!!!

THE DANES ARE IN BERLIN; (Mike '72, Becky '74 & Liz '78) April 29th..... and link up with Molly (Short) Brown '76



Front to back: Liz, Mike, Becky and Molly



We actually met the current resident of our old home in Berlin. She invited us into her garden. We recreated this picture from circa 1967.

Rob's Page (he gets around)..

MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Rob Ahrens '87 (and wife Holly) are on a:

Berlin, Prague, Amsterdam, river cruise with #avalonwaterways (Cologne, Rüdesheim, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Freiburg), & Zurich linking up with Brats along the way. Early May 2023.



Holly and Rob w/Carl Marvin '87 in Prague!

W/Tom Carey '87 in Rüdesheim, Germany



Rob Ahrens '87 is with Corey Dean Little '85 and Christina Tucker '89 in Pasadena, CA.

May 19, 2023

THE ANGELS ARE AT IT AGAIN!
(the '85ers!)



Lisa (Begue) Carey, Malissa (Murray)
Ladd & Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw

The most wonderful Birthday Bash in Nashville with Berlin Brats! Stevie Nicks (guest appearance of Sheryl Crow for Landslide) & Billy Joel Concert was our highlight event.

Nothing compares to the rich gift of longtime, steadfast friends who love you through the years.
Lisa (Begue) Carey '85



Letting hubbies in on a little of the fun: Greg,
Malissa, Tim '85, Jenni, Lisa & Brian



Chick-Fil-A Military Appreciation night in
Virginia – Glen Dunwoody '65, May 17, 2023



STILL MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Warren Knarr '77 invades the Heidelberg Lion's den!!! Bier Garten, Portsmouth, VA luncheon...March 18, 2023



Berlin Brats get together! Great friends Richard Jernigan ('79), his wife Mary Hood Jernigan, Laura Colangelo Morris ('79) and her husband Andy Morris. Saturday we did a nine hour tour in the Florida Everglades with Andy's Nephew and wife Stacy's tour company, #WildLimeAdventures. Airboat ride, boat ride of 10,000 islands, nature walk and much more. We had a blast!!!

From Laura: March 19, 2023



Richard, Mary, Laura & Andy!

STILL MORE BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

Brat get-together: Kim (McLean) Hunt '77 is greeting ????



....the surprise '78 Berlin Brat guest is : Lori Rhynsburger-Wilson from Wyoming!

We haven't seen each other in 35 years and she decided she wanted to go on a quick island cruise. We both are now 63 yrs old Brats...Having a blast. Leaving Coco Cay and sailing to Nassau. (4/29/23)



Berlin Brats represent at the Colorado Brats Club-Edelweiss Restaurant 4-29-23!

The Colorado Brats Club held their annual luncheon on April 29th (*the official National Military Brats Day is April 30th*). 85+ Brats descended into the (*temporarily named*) "B"RATSKELLER where they raised \$1000+ for the AOSHS BRAT scholarships to be awarded next month. Small pre-selected overseas high school seniors will be the recipients.

Their next event is Saturday, December 2nd @ the Denver Christmas Markt.....now rated #1 in the U.S.

The Berlin Brats will be making that our "year-end 2023 regional." So if in the area mark your calendars now. More info to follow as time nears.



Front row: Debbie Jamieson-spouse, Connie (Phillips) Salazar '80, Debbie Doty '80, Sarah Lopez '74

Back row: Gilbert Lopez '80, Dara (Tabor) Hung '88 and Victor Lopez '73

Debbie, Darla and Connie...
ate all the Broetchen!!!



Darla and Connie in their Berlin jackets – far left.

BERLIN MINI HAPPENS SPONSTANTEOUSLY @ PRIVATE EYES

(tribute band for Hall & Oates) Concert, Casino AZ, April 22nd, 2023:



Bernie Beausoleil '72 calls Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and says his son's band is coming to PHX and we should get tickets to attend. Jeri jumped on it!

Bernie then says....heck I'm gonna fly in then! Then Jim Wright '72 just happens to call Jeri the next day – on an unrelated topic....and BAM! he says Jackie and he want to attend. Then we reached out to fellow classmate Diana (Green) Kempton '72 who also lives in the area.

Then our '73 Bitburg Barons friends jump on it.



(L to R) Reed Kempton (spouse), Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Jim Wright '72, Diana (Green) Kempton '72, Nathan Beausoleil, Bernie's son and Lead Guitarist for Private Eyes, Bernie Beausoleil '72, Evelyn (Carey) Christich '73 (Bitburg Baron) and Gerry Christich '73 (also Bitburg Baron).

Gerry and Bernie competed against each other in "Cross Country"..... it was fun listening to them recall their "regional meet" in K-town some 50+ yrs later, where all the German schools competed against each other.



Concert table

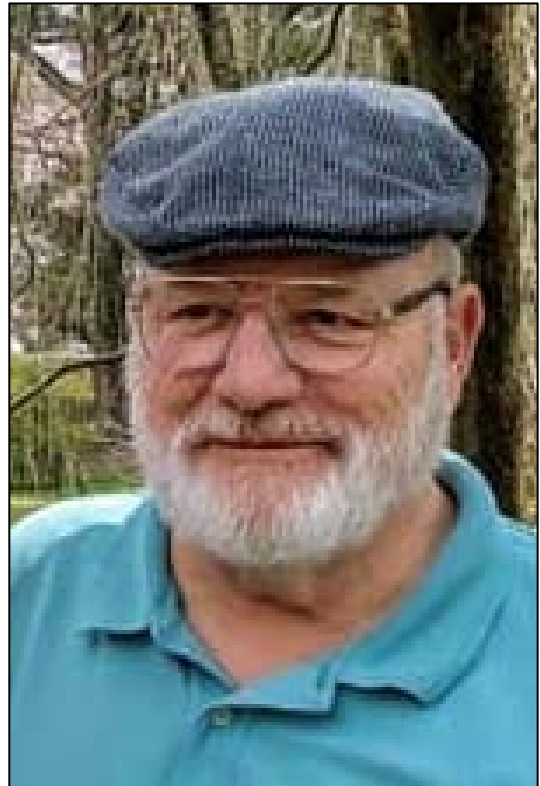
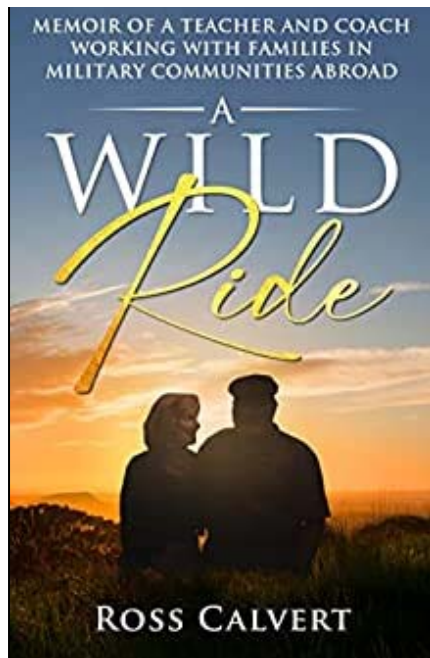


Pre-show dinner

Berlin Brat, Ross Calvert '65 ('63-'65) has written a memoir based on his experience living in 9 countries as a Brat turned DoDDs teacher/coach. (AFCENT 1974-1984; SHAPE 1984-1997; Incirlik 1997-1999 and Bitburg 1999-2006).

Called: "A Wild Ride: Memoir of a Teacher and Coach Working with Families in Military Communities Abroad"

Order your copy on Amazon.com (Click [This LINK](#))



Throwback picture:

'77-'79 Tennis Club pic of Sherry Flinn '80



Currywurst – YUM!!

Remember the original white paper fluted plates and the green plastic (or wooden) forks???



1ST AOSHS Scholarship winner – who visits and collects her check in person...



Ron Harrison-AOSHS Treasurer, Berlin USAF (ret) & asst. coach for the '71-'72 season, presents to Kadena High School senior Cathy Rice. (6/16/23).

Cathy and her mom, Dr. Rice, has family in the Wichita area and made a trip back after graduation.

AOSHS awards 4-6 Scholarships each year via the "Dr. Drysdale Memorial Scholarship fund" to small underserved American High

Schools overseas. Dr. Drysdale, was the visionary/founder of AOSHS. The fund was started by Brats at an Overseas Brat Gathering after Dr. Drysdale's passing in 2013. The fund continues to be supported by Brats & Educators from all schools.

Presently, the Berlin Brats have announced an "Adam Hildenbrand Memorial Scholarship" campaign @ AOSHS in honor of his recent passing (6/9/23), Mr. Hildenbrand's tenure at DoDDs took him to Korea, England, France, BERLIN ('69-'94) and then Sicily. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 to fund one scholarship for an active-duty Brat at a (still active) small overseas high school. We think Mr. H would love this!!!!

Donations can be made online at: aoshs.org/donate

When filling out the donation form – after your last name in the same block type: (Mr. H Scholarship Fund)

OR

make your check payable to AOSHS but mailed to the Berlin Brats @ 41910 N. Crooked Stick Rd, Anthem, AZ 85086.

Deadline is: July 31, 2023. Thank You for participating!!!!



Throwback pic: Class of '55

(submitted by Earl J. Mahoney)



MEMORIES FROM 1947.....



We arrived in Berlin Germany in the spring of 1947. My father worked in public relations for American Overseas Airways, which was a branch of American Airlines intended to serve Europe. It was later sold to Pan Am, around 1950.

American Overseas Airlines

American Overseas Airlines was an airline that operated between the United States and Europe between 1945 and 1950. It was headquartered in Midtown Manhattan, New York City.

Founded: 1945

Ceased operations: 1950 (merged into Pan American World Airways)

Fleet size: 33

We lived in Wannsee, at 11 Straße Zum Löwen. My mother registered my sister and myself to go to the American dependents school in Dahlem Berlin; the Thomas A. Roberts School, or TAR, in honor of the first American pilot shot down over Berlin. The school bus, an old army ambulance with a white cross on the outside of it, would arrive with German drivers at our house in Wannsee every morning to take us to school.

I think I started at TAR in fifth grade, and was there through sixth grade. I seem to recall Life Magazine doing an article on us dependents in the school, and I particularly remember a photograph of Toni Riddleberger talking on the phone in Life Magazine. There were reminders of the war to be found in many places back then. My father, being a sailor, was able to obtain a six meter class of sailboat. He and other sailors would get topo maps of Wannsee Lake depths. The odd thing was, that sailors would often run aground, get themselves off of the shallow part, and sail only a little bit before running aground again. They finally figured out that there were bomb craters in Wannsee Lake. You would run aground on one edge of the bomb crater, and when you got off, you'd sail a little bit into the other edge of the crater.

The maps of the lake bottom were no good after the war. We didn't have much contact with the German kids our age, but it must have been tough for them having grown up or being high school age during the war. Our teachers reached out to the Russian Embassy regarding an exchange between the American students and the Russian students, but received a negative response.

Being a student in Berlin 1947, the one image that really sticks in my mind is an apartment in the center of the city. A bombed out apartment building with the walls missing, the image of a couch sitting on what was left of the floor, and the picture still hanging on the wall over the couch. That was an apartment building exposed to the elements. That's the image that comes to me when I think of Berlin after World War II 1947 thereabouts.



David Parsons '53 ('47-'49 in Berlin; 6th, 7th & 8th grades)

(...from Berlin War images)

(Continued from page 5)

U.S. Army crews established procedures that manual labor for unloading C-47 aircraft with an average time of 8 minutes was faster than with forklifts. Soviet intelligence officers relay to Stalin that the "Little Blockade" was a success.

May 1948

Was a month of Allied reaction to the Soviets walking out of the Control Council, primarily on the diplomatic side. During this month ground & air deliveries to Berlin were increased in anticipation of another blockade. The Russians intensified their propaganda that the allies will leave Berlin. They also established new and impossible documentation requirements for the movement of military and civilian freight into Berlin. The flood of refugees into Berlin from the countries east of Germany continues.



Airlift started with C- 47's

June 1948

Military Air Transport Service (MATs) is established by the Pentagon combining the transport aircraft assets of the new Air Force and the Navy.

Twenty-six railroad wagons of Berlin Mail for the west are seized by Russian Officials.

The Soviets continue to interfere with all surface traffic to Berlin. Five coal trains to Berlin are halted. Gen. Clay wants to have a tank column force its way to Berlin. Washington and London do not approve.

June 10

Russians try to remove locomotive and railroad cars from the American Sector and are stopped by armed guards including a tank. All railroad freight traffic between Western zones and Berlin suspended for two days by the Soviets.

Soviets issue new regulations tightening inter-zonal ground passenger traffic. The autobahn is closed for repairs.

Soviets officials walk out of the Kommandatura council governing Berlin and the political break is complete. The West German provisional government announces it will have 1500 offices to exchange money ready on a Sunday in the near future. British Air Force of Occupation (BAFO) prepares for supply of their garrison in Berlin.

(Friday) Allies announce currency reform in West Berlin, Soviets refuse to participate. All West to East road traffic is halted. Russians cancel all internal motor-coach licenses' and finally suspend passenger training, road and mail to and from Berlin. Soviets cut off food and electricity to allied sectors. Power comes back on for 4 hours a day. 2 hours during the day and two hours after midnight. Berliners receive no notice of when it will be turned on.

(Sunday) Release of the new Deutschmark replacing the Reichsbanknote begins in West Berlin. General Clay offers stateside return to military dependents in Berlin if they wish, but husbands will also be transferred. Few accept and they stay in Berlin demonstrating American resolve.

Foreign Secretary Earnest Bevin declares England will go it alone to save Berlin if necessary. Russians announce that due to "technical" difficulties there will be no rail traffic to or from Berlin.

Big four meeting in Berlin fails to produce agreement on currency reform. Soviets and allies announce two separate currencies in Berlin. Soviets begin closing Berlin access.

Money exchanges continue in Berlin. City Council members were abused and beaten by Communists outside city hall in the Soviet Sector for supporting western currency reform measures.

British Air Commodore Rex Waite presents a detailed plan to General Clay for feeding West Berlin population using aircraft. Clay then phones General Curtiss LeMay to begin an airlift. Soviets serve notice they will not supply food to Western Sectors of Berlin. In retaliation for currency reform Soviets continue to tighten all freight, passenger, and water traffic to Berlin. American Congress agrees to accept 200,000 displaced persons from Europe over the next two years.

General Clay meets with West Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter and explains the hardships ahead with an airlift. He is assured that Berliners will do whatever is necessary and Berliners will take it. The First RAF arrives at Wunsdorf from England.

Official start of the Berlin Airlift to supply the citizens of West Berlin. Some have access to water and some sections have adequate plumbing. Gas for cooking is metered. Russians limit electric power to 4 hours a day. 10+ C-47s from Wiesbaden make 32 flights carrying 80 tons. General LeMay orders 87 C-47s and 2 C-54s from European Air Transport Service (EATS) to Wiesbaden & Rhein-Main Air Base. C-54s are ordered to Germany from CA, Canal Zone, AL, TX and Hawaii.

Headquarters USAFE creates Berlin Airlift Task Force. General Joseph Smith at Wiesbaden is assigned commander and names it "Operation Vittles". A British C-47 "Dakota" arrives at Berlin's Gatow Air Base at 0600 Hrs. In the next 24 hours 13 Dakotas fly 44 short tons of food to Berlin.

Wiesbaden joins airlift in major effort, using 80 C-47 airplanes. First two C-54s arrive at 9:30am from Westover AFB, MA with the first flight to Berlin at 7:36 pm. RAF renames airlift "Carter Paterson".

Extracted from the Berlin Airlift Veterans Assn. Newsletter



The first Navy pilot to complete 100 missions during the Berlin Airlift was Lt. Leo M. Sabota flying for VR-6 from Rhein-Main.

He flew his first trip to Berlin on 24 November 1948



60th Berlin Summer Folk Festival from June 21 to July 16, 2023

Location: Berlin Central Fairgrounds

TEASER: the Berlin Christmas Markt (see reunion box below)



Upcoming Events

2023 Regionals:

December 1-2, 2023
Colorado Brats Club @
Denver Christkindl Markt
(Berlin Brats participating)

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

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

Next Reunion 2024
Exploring a Reunion in Berlin
w/Christmas Markets bus tour

added on to Dresden,
Nürnberg & Munich.
Possibly:

Dec 5-7, 2024 w/add-on 5-
6+ days.

Still TBD

Contact Information



Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Director

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road

Anthem, AZ 85086

telephone: 623•764•1105

email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

website: www.berlinbrats.org



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 FB Page

By Invitation Only

Email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

American Overseas School Historical Society

Linda L. Connelly, President

email: lcmkc@yahoo.com

website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President

email: joeosbpres1955@gmail.com

website: www.overseasbrats.com

Communication Brat:

Peter Stein '80

pstein80@msn.com

WebBrat:

Carl Fenstermacher '73

WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org