

## **BERLIN CHAPTER UPDATE Newsletter - February 2008**

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cold War Museum, Berlin Chapter  
By Baerbel Simon –German Affairs-

The Berlin Chapter wishes all the friends and supporters a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Thank you all very much for the many Christmas and New Year's greetings. I am glad to offer the following report on the activities and development of the Berlin Chapter of the Cold War Museum.

The year 2007 was very successful for the Berlin Chapter. We made significant progress. The first exhibition of the Berlin Chapter has been open since June 30th, 2007. Many guests were there from near and far. The Berlin Chapter has had a very positive feedback in the media and also we have had a number of invitations.

Mr. Geoff Smith, Chairman of the British Berlin Air lift Association sent me that sad news.

### **In Memorium**

The Chairman of the BBAA, Squadron Leader Frank Stillwell died suddenly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008.. He was the first Secretary/Treasurer and co-founder of the BBAA in 1994 along with the first Chairman of the Association, Capt Alan D.B. Smith.

Also, Lady Daphne Maynard, the wife of the first President, Sir Nigel Maynard has died.

On behalf of the Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter I send all our sympathy to the families

### **England Journey 2007**

By Baerbel E. Simon

December 7th through 13th my husband and myself were in England the whole journey was wonderful. We had the opportunity to visit many museums and connected with many new contacts for the future work of the Berlin Chapter.

Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Cold War Exhibition  
Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP, <http://www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org.uk/>

RAF Museum London, Grahame Park Way, London, NW9 5LL  
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london>

Imperial War Museum, 111 Kennington Rd, London, SE11, UK  
<http://www.iwm.org.uk>

Nation Memorial Arboretum, Arlewas, Staffordshire / England  
<http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/>

The Berlin Airlift Memorial in England  
Fifty-two years after the end of the Berlin Blockade on the 12th May 1949, a Memorial and grove of thirty-nine trees was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire / England on the 12th May 2001 by the British Berlin Airlift Association.

The Berlin Airlift Memorial there is a smaller copy of the Berlin Airlift Memorial in Berlin / Germany. The eagle on the top represents the British and Commonwealth contribution to the first victory of the Cold War. Thirty-nine trees were planted in memory of the 39 British and Commonwealth men who were killed during the Berlin Airlift Mission.



On the 10th of December Press Conference, Lady Annes Hotel, Stamford; England  
We met representatives of the United Kingdom Press to report and inform them about our program of events to marking the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.

<http://www.northantset.co.uk/evening-telegraph/Airlift-anniversary-preview-UK-visit.3564511.jp>

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/evening-telegraph/Airlift-anniversary-preview-UK-visit.3564511.jp>

<http://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/villagesnews/Events-mark-Berlin-Airlift-anniversary.3576046.jp>

<http://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk/news/Germans-praise-plans-to-mark.3581704.jp>

The absolute highlight was the meeting with the Berlin Airlift Veterans, and ability to talk face to face with them. I gave a small talk to inform and present the Berlin Chapter and the common project

### The Berlin Airlift the first Battle of the Cold War



Many thanks go to AM Sir John Curtiss KCB KBE FRACS CBIM, Mr. Bernard Howard – Sponsorship Co-ordinator, Mr. Geoff Smith, Chairman, and Mr. Colin Cottle (all members of the British Berlin Airlift Association) for organizing and arranging for us the visits. We shared a wonderful time. All was very perfect and we are looking forward to welcome all of you in Berlin May 2008.

Many thanks for coming to the following gentlemen:

Left to right: Mr. Bert Flatters, Mr. Norman Bingham, Veteran Peter Beswick, Veteran John Perkins and Veteran David Hildred.

We are looking forward to seeing you in person in Peterborough June 2008.

### Christmas and New Year 1948

By Baerbel Simon

In the years 1948, the Berliners were glad and thankful to have an intact room, coal for heat and maybe a candle. Well, we can now think that people did not know what was prosperity or the hunting of bargains. The city was destroyed, dark and cold, the people were thankful to the Western Powers and its mission to provide support with everything needed for their daily life.



Berlin- Friedrichstrasse 1945  
George C. Marshall Foundation

### How did the Airlift ground and aircrews celebrate Christmas?

By Baerbel E. Simon

Shortly before Christmas Irving Berlin, the famous comedian Bob Hope accompanied by actress Jinx Falkenberg and other stage, screen and radio performers left by air from the USA to entertain the soldiers at Christmas in Germany. Irving Berlin had composed a surprise for the Airlift Troops.

On the 25th of December 1948

The Bob Hope Party gave a series of special Christmas performances in Berlin and other sites in Germany for everybody involved in the Airlift. After the successful shows in Germany, the assembled

group traveled to Burtonwood Air Base near Manchester / England to entertain the troops, and bring a bit of joy to them.

Irving Berlin wrote a music score for the Berlin Airlift Troops.

Operation Vittles, Words & Music by Irving Berlin

Verse

Not long ago a group we called the air corps  
Helped win the war and too a bow  
Not long ago we cheered the fighting air corps  
Let's see what's happened to them now.

Chorus

Operation Vittles we'll soon be on our way  
With coal and wheat and hay and everything's is okay  
Operation Vittles as in the sky we go  
We won't forget to blow  
A kiss to Uncle Joe we're growing fonder  
Of "The wild blue yonder"  
Making a buck flying a truck  
No one here belittles the job that must be done  
Although the war was won  
We'll be there earning stripes and bars  
In our old freight cars till the airlift gets the air.

Parody on "Operation Vittles"

Operation Fraeulein  
The final bugle sounds  
And like a pack of hounds we wander out of bounds  
Operation Fraeulein  
We jump upon our bikes  
And meet someone who likes a pack of Lucky Strikes  
We're growing fonder of a girl who's blonder  
Than the brunette we can't forget  
Operation Fraeulein  
We must make in Germany a true democracy on the square  
So a guy begets little democrats Till the Airlift gets the air.

Source:

The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization  
1065 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2400  
New York, NY 10018 [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)

Please help spread the word about the Berlin Chapter. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions or want additional information, please visit the German Homepage:

[www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter/](http://www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter/)

Or, give me a call : 030.745.1980

Thank you for your support

Baerbel E. Simon

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