I am pleased to offer the following report about the activities and developments of the Cold War Museum, Chapter Berlin/Germany. We continue to have many interesting invitations.

On 27 June 2008:
Invitation of the Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit.- Berliner Rathaus (Wappensaal).
Welcoming Berlin Airlift Veterans – and Berliner contemporary witnesses
Deputy Mrs. Anna Edith Haase


After two years of intensive work, the Berlin Chapter’s second exhibit has finally opened.

**The first Battle of the Cold War – The Berlin Airlift**

I would like once again thank all the guests for making the long journey to Harnekop. More than 100 guests from Germany, Poland, The United Kingdom, and USA took part in the celebration.

Special guest:
Mr. Rainer Eppelmann, last free voted secretary of defense – former GDR. He serves on “Stiftung Aufarbeitung der SED Diktatur” (processing of the *SED Dictator) as committee member.
Mr. Heinz Gerd Reese “Stiftung Luftbrueckendank” (Airlift Gratitude Foundation)

Mr. Frank W. Ehling, Director, Amt Barnim-Oderbruch and Mr. Geoffrey W. Smith – Chairman British Berlin Airlift Association.

Fifteen British Airlift Veterans, who took part in the Berlin Airlift, attended the opening. The veterans were in Berlin on a tour from the 23 May 2008 to the 28 May 2008 to visit related historic sites. We had an exciting program with many highlights. Crossing the Oder River by Ferry, Dinner at the “Golden Kartoffel”

BBQ at the Fliegerkneipe “Bohm’s”, Welcoming of the Director, Mrs. Kathy Alberst of the Museum “The Kennedys”.

Representatives of the international Press were also there and their reports were spread around the world. (We had articles in Newspapers, on radio and TV, in Ireland, England, Scotland, Poland, France, Turkey, Germany, USA, Asia, Australia, New Zealand.)

Mr. Stanley Sickelmore was one of a half dozen veterans who flew to Germany to attend the opening of the exhibit in the village of Harnekop

**Capt. Sickelmore**, who is from Bournemouth, England said to the Journalist of AP (Associated Press)

In September 1941, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force. After many month of training in America and Canada, he awarded his flying wings in May 1943. Back in England, he attended courses on twin and four engine aircrafts and finally he was posted to number 138 Special Duty Squadron flying Short Stirling four engine bombers. Back in England and unemployed after the war ended. In the summer of 1948, he got work with a charter company called Airflight, his first job in civil aviation. As well, he delivered 500,000 gallons (nearly 2 million liters) of much-needed diesel fuel to a country with who he had been at war three years earlier.

“Three years before we had been mortal enemies, bombing each other, and a bit later on we're spending a year trying to save the lives of 2 million odd Germans in West Berlin. It was a strange feeling.”
Mr. Sickelmore flew 226 missions during the Berlin Airlift.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/news/2008/06/080623_berlinairlift_wt_dm.shtml

Cpt. Sickelmore donated his personally photos and information material the Berlin Chapter. His special Mission shall present on display.

Mr. William L. Ball, an Aircraft mechanic from South Yorkshire who served eleven years on the RAF said, “I thought was being sent on a routine assignment.

We were told that we had been going to Germany for two weeks. We ended up staying there for a year. It was only when we found out afterward what it was all about, we realized it was quite a thing we did for them.”

Mr. William L. Ball wrote many poems about the Berlin Airlift and he wrote a new one for the 60th anniversary. Mr. Ball donated his personally poem collection the Berlin Chapter.

http://news.scotsman.com/worldwarii/RAF-veterans-honoured.4119105.jp

Special thanks go to all sponsors: Rolls-Royce Civil Aerospace, for sponsoring the day with the British Veterans in Harnekop, Air Berlin sponsored the flight tickets for the veterans and ILA Berlin for organizing a reception for the veterans on the 27 May 2008, and the manager Mr. Alexander Stolle, Hotel Steglitz International for special rates. The chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Mrs. Angela Merkel honored the US and British Veterans

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7422537.stm

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/news/2008/06/080623_berlinairlift_wt_dm.shtml

http://www.welt.de/berlin/article2133859/Die_Veteranen_besuchen_Berlin.html

http://news.aol.com/story/_a/british-efforts-in-berlin-airlift/n20080525102509990001

http://www.moz.de/index.php/Moz/Article/category/Bad+Freienwalde/id/231778

http://www.oderbruch-online.de/index.php?m=19&id=3967&year=2008&year=2008&UID=e6ee3d4a1bb57f3f

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/05/25/europe/EU-GEN-Germany-Airlift-Anniversary


On June 2008 The British Berlin Airlift Association remembers the start of the Berlin Airlift on June 1948.

A 60th Anniversary commemoration weekend was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Peterborough UK from Thursday the 26 to Sunday 29 June 2008.

The Association invited as honored guests the representatives of the Berlin Chapter. The Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter was one of the co-sponsors.

On 25 June, 2008

Berlin Airlift veterans gathered at Cosford Museum in Shropshire to mark the 60th anniversary of the operation.

About 40 members of the British Berlin Airlift Association met members of the public at the RAF museum at Cosford on Wednesday

BBC news Channel was there to interview the veterans

Peter Beswick was one of 40 members of the British Berlin Airlift Association who was honored at Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford.
Mr. Peter Beswick’ said to a reporter of BBC

“Without this taking place the whole city would have been starved out—there’s no doubt about that.”

Peter Beswick who is from Oundle served on the Royal Air Force, 47 Squadron as Navigator who was trained on the new Hasting Airlift Aircraft in Disfurth, Yorkshire 1948. On a cold November morning, he was leaving England because he was posted to Germany on the Berlin Airlift. Peter was stationed in Schleswig Land and flew 78 separate missions to the new build Airport Berlin-Tegel. (1948—the 47 Squadron took part in the Berlin Airlift and flew over 3,000 sorties in the seven months it was assigned to the operation, mainly transporting coal to the beleaguered city.)

Handley-Page Hastings from Schleswigland flying the corridor to Berlin-Tegel

Specification: Wing Span: 112 ft INS (34.44m)
Crew: Pilot - Co-pilot - Navigator - Signaller - Flight Engineer, Payload: 9.3-9.5 short tons, Number of aircraft on the Airlift 24 in July/August 1949

The Berlin Chapter presents on display the life impressions of his wife Betty.

On Saturday 28 June 2008
Night of entertainment, ‘40s style, was be one of the highlights of a weekend commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.
The big band ‘40s night at The Cresset, in Bretton, Peterborough, featured the Johnny Harris Orchestra, which played the music of the era.

On Sunday 29 June 2008

Memorial-March of the Veterans from the British Berlin Airlift Association the parade started from the Town Hall to St John’s Church.

Members of the RAF, US Air force, and the Air Cadets joined the Berlin Airlift Veterans, their families, and friends as they proudly marched along Bridge Street, through Cathedral Square to St John’s Church. ‘The parade was led by the RAF band, and the city center came to a standstill as the parade made its way along the streets.

The Peterborough Mayor greeted them outside the Town Hall; the heroes passed people on street around burst into a spontaneous round of applause to show their respect for the veterans.

The anniversary commemoration ended with a dignified service at the St. John’s Church.

http://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/Heroes-of-Berlin-Airlift-set.4139686.jp
http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2008/06/berlin-airlift-british

Many thanks go to Chairman Geoff Smith and the Committee of the BBAA for the invitation, My husband Horst and myself shared wonderful hours with the Airlift Veterans and we are looking forward to seeing all of them 2009 in Germany or in the UK.

Further information about the Cold War Museum is available on the internet:

www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter
www.atombunker-16-102.de

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