

Newsletter of the Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter May 2009

By Baerbel E. Simon –German Affairs-

I am pleased to offer the following report about the activities and developments of the Cold War Museum/Berlin Chapter. We have had a number of interesting invitations and events. A special event took place on March 08, 2009, when we hosted over 60 guests at the Memorial Site Bunker Harnekop.

On the 8th of March, 2009 - Special Event at Memorial Site Bunker Harnekop.

Guest Speaker: Assoc. Prof. (Ret.) Harold E. Schwartz, South Carolina, USA; Translator: US Air Force Major (Ret.)/Asst. Prof. (Ret.) Arik K. Komets, Berlin; Moderation: Bärbel E. Simon, The Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter.

My experiences in Berlin

What a Story.....

Harold (Hal) Edward Schwartz Jr. was born in Washington DC. His father was an American Diplomat who was also stationed in former French Indochina, now Vietnam. Mr. Schwartz attended school there and learned to speak fluent French.

After graduating from high school Mr. Schwartz attended Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Before graduation he enlisted in the US Army and was assigned to military intelligence. He was sent to the US Army Language School in Monterey, CA, to learn Russian.

In January 1961 he was assigned to West Berlin. Due to his language skills (English, French, and Russian) he had duty assignments to several US military and Allied offices/departments where his language skills were required. In October 1964 another soldier introduced him to several "Free University" students in West Berlin. He was asked by them, if he could help in the infiltration of several Humboldt University students from East Berlin to West Berlin. He agreed

Out of altruistic conviction, he did not receive any money for it.....

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Kevin Flecknor who is living in Kettering in the United Kingdom, has agreed to serve on the Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter as British Liaison Co-worker . It is really a great honor and a step forward for the Berlin Chapter.

The British Liaison of the Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter

By Kevin Flecknor

My name is Kevin Flecknor and I live in the town of Kettering in Northamptonshire, England. I have many historical interests, which include: Collecting memorabilia from WWI- WWII to present, which includes many books as well as items of clothing etc. I have an interest in making DVD's as well as collecting archive footage, I am thinking of showing some archive footage to the general public to gain funding to help maintain some war memorials that are in need of repair. The memorial at Kings Cliff in Northamptonshire I cut the grass and maintain the hedge's, this is one in need of repair. The RAF was there at first and then the 20th Fighter Group (USAAF) took over.

I assisted an ex-work colleague on www.airfieldsofww2.co.uk & www.airfieldsofww2.info

The first web-site takes you to Grafton Underwood and the second takes you to Kings Cliff. I know that there are a few spelling mistakes, unfortunately I did not create the web-sites. We are looking at Polebrook (351st) USAAF, as our next project, this was the airfield that Clark Gable was stationed at.

I have spent many hours with my cam-coder at Grafton Underwood, I made a DVD and sent it to the USA to Frank Schick, his family was on some of the footage, and Frank has since died and is remembered on the web-site.

I am a member of Huntingdonshire Aviation Group (HAG) we meet on the last Wednesday of the month. We meet at a pub between Huntingdon and Cambridge, it is a 75 mile round trip for me but it is worth it. Two of the members have bought a Cambra Cockpit and after renovating it they plan on taking it to shows/events.

I visit shows/events throughout the year and try to capture as much as I can onto DVD or photographs.

I have contact with RAF Alconbury (USAF) the Wing Commander said she thought it an honor and said that they would work with me where they could.

I have introduced myself to RAF Cosford and I hope to link up with them, at present I am trying to find a Trabant (GDR) car a home either with Cosford or another museum that their curator can get me in touch with.

I also set up the displays for The British Berlin Airlift Association. This is where I met Baerbel and Horst Simon in 2007; I made a film on DVD, of their visit and gave them a copy to take back to Berlin with them. I have remained friends with them ever-since. If I spot anything that I think is of any interest to them, I either let them know or even post it on to Berlin.

I help set up the display for the 60th Anniversary at Peterborough as well as Duxford a week or two earlier.

When it was suggested to me was I interested in becoming an official co-worker, for the CWM, I had to read the e-mail several times. I have said "Yes" I am interested but I understand it is down to you, to accept me.

As you can see, I did start off by saying "I have many historical interests" If I get accepted to be the UK Liaison, I will give it 100% and do the best I can for the CWM.

Many thanks go to Mr. Kevin Flecknor for readiness to help to preserve the history of the Cold War.

The Cold War and the Peace Movement: The NATO Double-Track Decision in Inner German and Transatlantic Perspective Conference, Berlin, 26-28 March, 2009

German Historical Institute, Washington, DC (GHI)
and the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin (IfZ)
Philipp Gassert (GHI), Tim Geiger (IfZ) and Hermann Wentker (IfZ)
Location: Hertie School of Governance, Quartier 110 – First Floor,
Friedrichstraße 180, 10117 Berlin

Forum of Surviving Witnesses: same location – Fourth Floor (Auditorium
Friedrichstraße)

In this year of marathon commemorations (2009), an important milestone in the Cold War unjustly gets overlooked: the NATO Double-Track Decision of December 12, 1979. At that time, NATO decided that, in case arms control negotiations with the USSR should fail, the intermediate nuclear forces of the West should be modernized to provide a counterweight to the new Soviet SS-20 missiles. This directly affected international relations as well as domestic developments in European and North American societies: Alongside the almost simultaneous Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the NATO decision marked a shift from an era of reduced tension in international politics to a newly heightened East-West confrontation in the "Second Cold War."

In many Western societies, the decision mobilized domestic political protest movements. Societal resistance manifested itself on a scale hitherto unseen: protesters organized human chains, sit-ins, and mass demonstrations. But east of the "Iron Curtain," as well, the idea of peace moved a lot of people.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the NATO Double-Track Decision, this conference, jointly organized by the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin and the German Historical Institute of Washington, DC, aims to illuminate this historic landmark on the basis of the most recent research and newly accessible sources. In order to internationalize contemporary history, it addresses not only the central role of West German-American relations in this decision, but also the greater European picture. It focuses on the politics and societal reactions in Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, France, and Poland in addition to the rival superpowers, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. With this focus, the NATO Double-Track decision becomes embedded in its transatlantic, intra-European, and social contexts. We are interested in connecting state and society, as well as global and domestic politics. Moreover, we aim to highlight transnational cooperation among the peace movement(s) and the elite networks of the so-called strategic community. What long-term consequences followed from the confrontation between the political "establishment" and the peace movement? In the final analysis, did the Double-Track Decision, perhaps, paradoxically set the stage for ending the Cold War? At this conference, leading experts from Germany, Europe, and the U.S. will try to find answers to these questions.



In addition, in a roundtable discussion, prominent surviving witnesses will reflect on the questions that were so hotly debated in their day, including

Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher; Karsten Voigt, coordinator for German-American cooperation who was the spokesperson on foreign affairs for the SPD faction in the Bundestag at that time; Rainer Eppelmann, a minister "moved by peace" in East Berlin and the last defense minister in the GDR; and Marieluise Beck, a founding member of the Green Party and a parliamentary member of the Auswärtiger Ausschuss

[Committee on Foreign Relations].

On April/May 2009

I am also pleased to announce that the Commune Oder-Welse and the Commune Barnim-Oderland in cooperation with The Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter and the Association Monument Bunker Harnekop e.V.

On April 30 and May 1 to take place a SA-2 missile at the Memorial site Bunker Harnekop.

On April 30 there will be a ceremony for VIP'S and on May 1, the official ceremony for the general public. May 1, 2009 corresponds with the 49th anniversary of the shoot down of Francis Gary Powers and the U-2 Incident.

The missile is a permanent artifact of the missile museum in Pinnow and the Commune Oder- Welse.



Poster layout: Helmut Kirchner, The Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter, Berlin 2009

On 19th of .2009 we are back in the United Kingdom for a special event

In addition, I am pleased to announce that the Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter and the Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter - British Liaison , in cooperation of the Library Kettering, Mrs. Andrea Pettingale would like to invite you to a special event on:

On Wednesday, 20th May 2009 at Kettering Library commencing at 7:30 pm



**The First Battle of the Cold War – The Berlin Airlift
When the Nations united:**

Logo layout: Helmut Kirchner, The Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter, Berlin 2009

Speaker & Special Guests

Mrs. Andrea Pettingale Historian / Kettering /England
Mr. Kevin Flecknor The Cold War Museum / British Chapter
USAF Commander Timothy Cashdollar / 501st Air Base at Alconbury / UK
Mrs. Baerbel E. Simon The Cold War Museum / Berlin Chapter
Mr. Bernard Howard, Kings Cliff, UK

Everybody is welcome to come along we would like to tell you about:

The Miracle of Berlin in 1948 - 1949.

We would like to present, in addition of the talks, a slide presentation and photo exhibition at the Library.

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

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

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Photos by Horst Simon

