

Cold War Museum, Berlin Chapter Germany Newsletter November 2006

By Baerbel E. Simon- The Cold War Museum- Berlin Chapter
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Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cold War Museum

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.

The home page Berlin Chapter is finally ready, at: www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter/

On November 4th, 2006 we will place the symbolic cornerstone of the Cold War Information Center at the Atomic Bunker in Harnekop, and have organized a small ceremony to commemorate the event. The Cold War Information Center will occupy a portion of the Atomic Bunker site.

I have sent many invitations supporters of the Cold War contacts with the bunker at Mr. Francis Gary Powers, Jr. very much forward to seeing invited!



letters to friends and Berlin Chapter. The first Harnekop took place with in September 2005. We look you at this event. All are

On, October 28th, 2006, the Atomic Bunker Association commemorated the 30th anniversary of the bunker's opening. The protection complex 16/102 received its orders from the East Germany Ministry of National Defense in October 1976. In case of an atomic attack, it was to protect the Army leadership and carry out mobilization orders.

Since 1999, members of the association have fought to preserve this historical monument to demonstrate the unusual features of the bunker's engineering mastery. [www.atombunker 16-102nd de](http://www.atombunker16-102nd.de)

October 20th 2006, 7:00 pm

The Allied Museum hosted a talk under the sponsorship of the Berlin Historical Association for an English-speaking group of mostly British and Americans, but including a good representation from the German community as well

www.pinnow.com/bha.htm

by John Bessette

When World War II ended in Europe in 1945, the four victorious Allies occupied defeated Germany and Austria, splitting the territory into zones. Relations between the three western Allies and the Soviet Union deteriorated in the first few years, resulting in 1948 in the Soviet blockade of West Berlin and the subsequent Allied airlift to that cut-off city. However, there had been signs of a split between the secretive Soviets and the West long before the airlift. Danger signs pointed to possible renewed war on German soil as early as late 1945, and US occupation forces desperately needed intelligence information. US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) had to scramble to collect intelligence on Soviet and satellite military forces.

USAFE's reconnaissance operations began 1946 (at least) and did not end until German reunification in October 1990. Missions flown from bases such as Wiesbaden, Rhein-Main near by Frankfurt and Fuerstenfeldbruck near Munich.

Throughout their long life, using a mix of bombers and transports covertly modified with cameras and other detection devices, these units produced vital current and basic intelligence for both theater and national customers. Their aircrew had many brushes with their Soviet adversaries (some fatal). Collection activities extended all along the Iron Curtain, from the Baltic through the Black and Caspian Seas, and occasionally to Africa, Cuba, and even Southeast Asia. However, the main, most detailed, and most lucrative collection occurred in the Berlin Corridors and Control Zone, with missions flown almost daily throughout the long Cold War. The aircrews whose flew these missions called themselves the "Berlin for Lunch Bunch" and grew to love the city and admire its people. This talk will explore the nature and history of the various units and programs, including especially the intelligence collected how used and its impact on the Cold War.

John Bessette is a retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel who, among other assignments, flew reconnaissance missions with USAFE's 7405th Support Squadron 1965-68. As an intelligence officer in Defense Intelligence Agency 1970 -73 he supported the Joint Chiefs of Staff with assessments on reconnaissance missions worldwide. After a military tour in NATO, at Ramstein, Germany, he retired from the Air Force and joined DIA as a civilian intelligence analyst, where he specialized on the Soviet Air Forces. In this line of work, he used intelligence products from all sources, but especially loved the material from airborne recon, including his old flying outfit.

September 28th, 2006

The Association Atomic Bunker Harnekop e.V. hosted a group of nine US Veterans. They had a guided tour and talked about the developments of the Cold War Information-Center, and viewed a documentary film about the U-2 spy planes. Before they went back to Berlin, they had a delicious meal of pea soup and frankfurters. By all accounts, it was really a successful day.

September 18th, 2006

Recruits of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces) visited the Bunker Wollenberg
By Colonel Ret. Joachim Kampe

The Association of the "Armed Forces Historical Special Site 301" in Wollenberg hosted 50 Recruits of the Air Force VI Battalion in Strausberg. The organization is a member of the Bunker Alliance of Berlin/Brandenburg. www.bunkerallianz.de

In the context of their political education, the recruits visited the former troposphere radio headquarters 301 in Wollenberg, the coordinating message center for the Ministry of National Defense. It was responsible for the relationship to the general staffs and leadership of the armies of the Warsaw Pact, and served as an auxiliary message headquarters. The troposphere radio headquarters 301 is on Brandenburg's list of monuments and offers training and pedagogical opportunities.

Before the young recruits looked around the bunker grounds, they introduced to the complex background of Cold War military history by the association's advisor, Joachim Kampe Col. Ret. Since the recruits had not personally experienced the Cold War, it is strange to them. They attentively followed the explanations about the military potential of the armed forces of the two blocs and the military scenarios of a possible war worked out by the general staffs and political advisers of the respective governments. These included the horrifying scenarios of selective or massive use of nuclear weapons. The young recruits of the Federal Armed Forces were unsurprisingly relieved to not have seen or experienced the Cold War and to serve other interests today.

The troposphere radio headquarter 301 primarily served the aim of being able to command the troops after the use of nuclear weapon, and was a component of the

strategic troposphere message system with the name "Bars" which included all the participant states of the Warsaw Pact. The specific conditions of the electric magnetic waves of this system would have maintained communication in the event of a nuclear attack.

If you would like more information, please get in touch with Joachim Kampe Col. Ret. or visit the homepage www.hauptnachrichtenzentrale.de.

The National Air Force Museum, Dayton, Ohio



We got very interesting material for our exhibition. Thank you very much again,

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/>

When you have the opportunity to visit near Dayton, take time to visit this worthwhile museum.

The George C. Marshall Museum, Lexington, VA; USA

<http://www.marshallfoundation.org>

The director of the office of the Marshall Foundation provided documents and photos for the exhibition. The George C. Marshall Museum is a very good place to learn more about history.



The Churchill Archives Center -- Cambridge England.

The Churchill's Centre College and Archives will send copies of documents of Churchill's Telegrams between Stalin and President Truman as well as of the famous speech in March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri.

www.chu.cam.ac.uk

Thank you very much to all of you; all these materials will make the exhibition richer.

August 13th, 2006

The 45th anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall

With prayers and wreaths, politicians and victims' associations commemorated the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

On Sunday, August 13th, Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU), Berlin's mayor Klaus Wowereit (SPD) as well as the Berlin CDU mayoral candidate Friedbert Plueger put wreaths to remember the victims of Germany's division at the central memorial on Bernauer Street in Berlin.

In the morning, memories of sorrow and resistance mixed with prayers in the Berlin chapel of reconciliation on the site of the earlier "death strip."

Brandenburg's Interior Secretary Jörg Schönbohm did urged people not to forget the victims of the wall in Potsdam/Brandenburg on the Glienicke Bridge between Berlin and Potsdam.

The GDR undertook the division of Germany August 13th, 1961 by sealing off the western party of Berlin; this division only ended after 28 years with the fall of the wall on November 9th, 1989.

The Cold War in the 70's and 80's **By Joachim Kampe Col. Ret.**

In the 1970s, military and political tensions between the two world powers reached a high point. A spark was all that would have needed to turn the cold war into a hot one.

Huge reserves of military might were concentrated in Central Europe. NATO forces, including army groups north and central with 5,000 airplanes, numerous artillery weapons, as well as the 56th Missile Brigade with 108 strategic Missile Type „Pershing 2“ rocket launchers faced off against the armed forces of the Soviet Bloc with 9 powerful armies, including 30.000 Tanks, roughly 23,000 artillery weapons and other weaponry. After a mobilization by both sides, upwards of three millions soldiers could be engaged in battle.

The strategies of both sides are well-known, and would have included the use of nuclear weapons in both limited and full use. A hot war would have meant a nuclear war, and would have caused unimaginable destruction. The ability to communicate with the armed forces in the event of a nuclear attack taken into account by the leadership of the Warsaw Pact forces, and the relevant communications systems expanded and supplemented by new systems. These included the troposphere long-distance communication system “BARS”, which included all the member states of the Warsaw Pact and made up of stations located in bunkers. These stations all connected centrally, and made available to the military leadership. During the 1980s, this system put together despite enormous economic and financial difficulty. It considered so important since communication could continue in this way despite a nuclear attack.

Three of these stations built in the former East Germany, and integrated into the communications network of the National People's Army (NVA) in the event of war. The entire system was made up of diverse communications systems, including wire, directional radio, radio, satellite, and courier methods. Their usage was both open and secret.

The long-distance communications system of the NVA anchored on the basic structure of the East German state communications net, which already in the 1960s subordinated to the needs of the NVA and the Warsaw Pact armies. For example, the wired network was part of a much larger system, and included 1900 distant reporting channels, which switched only during the execution of maneuvers and training.

The last commander of the head office of the department for National Defense of the GDR, Joachim Kampe Col. Ret., gives a detailed description and representation of all distant reporting systems in his publication on CD in PDF file under the title, "Wostok" - the message headquarter office in the center of the military power of the GDR ". Details and further notes are on the internet page of the Author

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