



Cold War Times

The Internet Newsletter of the Cold War Museum

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About the Cold War Museum

Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welch, the Cold War Museum is dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans.

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Cold War Museum Update

Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

Dear Friends of the Cold War Museum,

As 2001 draws to a close I find myself reflecting on the many accomplishments of the Cold War Museum and those who have made them possible. I am writing to provide you with a brief update on the Museum's activities and to ask that you consider making a year-end tax-deductible donation to the Cold War Museum's general fund. A donation to our general fund will help us to develop quality exhibits and educational programs about the Cold War.

We are at a critical stage of our development. In January 2001, the Cold War Museum became an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Cold War Museum can exhibit artifacts from the Smithsonian's national collection and use the Smithsonian name in conjunction with fundraising and promotional activities. In addition, the Cold War Museum is in negotiations with Fairfax County Park Authority to locate at the former Nike Missile Base in Lorton, Virginia in the near future. In the meantime, we are working with the Fort Meade Museum in Maryland and the Freedom Museum in Manassas, Virginia to temporarily display some of our artifacts at their facilities.

Annually the Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Slovakian Embassies co-host a reception for the Museum. The next reception to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the end of the Cold War will be held at the Embassy of Slovakia on January 15, 2002. The Embassies of Bulgaria and Romania and the Cold War International History Project will also participate this year. As a result of past embassy support, the Museum acquired several important artifacts, including an East German admiral's uniform, a warning sign from Checkpoint Charlie, and a piece of the "Iron Curtain."

In 2001, General Andrew Goodpasture accepted a position with the Honorary Board of Directors. Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, President of Fairfax County EDA, Mr. R. Cargill Hall, Chief Historian for the National Reconnaissance Office, Mr. Christian Ostermann, Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History Project, and Major General Michael K. Wyrick, USAF (Ret.) former Deputy Surgeon General, Air Force Medical Service joined the board of directors.

The mobile exhibit on the U-2 Incident, the "Spies of Washington Tour," our book signing receptions, and our annual golf outing continue to generate support. In January 2001, the mobile exhibit returned from a six-month display at the Seattle Museum of Flight, Washington and is currently displayed at the Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida. The educational "Spies of Washington Tour" continues to sell out regularly. Recently, we hosted a tour for 15 travel magazine journalists, which resulted in write-ups in the Saturday Evening Post, Playboy, and many other national publications. Visit www.spytour.com for more information. At our latest book signing reception, author Adrian Havill talked about and then signed copies of his book, "The Spy Who Stayed Out in the Cold" about FBI agent Robert Hanssen. C-SPAN 2 (Book TV) covered the event and aired it several times throughout the month of November. The museum's golf tournament is scheduled during the second week of May 2002 at Ft. Belvoir. Volunteers and sponsors are needed.

Currently, the Cold War Museum is working with crew members of the USS Liberty, USS Pueblo, and members of the United States Military Liaison Mission, which was stationed in Potsdam, Germany from 1945-1992. Many individuals from these groups have contributed artifacts to the museum including the Commander of the USS Pueblo, Pete Boucher. Additional artifacts that were acquired in 2001 included a collection of East German uniforms, regalia, and artifacts, 1950's radio equipment used to listen in on Soviet communications, a USS Liberty display, a Stasi Prison door, a piece of the U-2 shot down over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and a SAM II missile, which is on loan to the Florida International Museum as part of their Cuban Missile Crisis display. The Museum currently has over one million dollars worth of artifacts in storage. Museum artifacts were recently used in the Kevin Costner film about the Cuban Missile Crisis entitled "Thirteen Days." We are currently negotiating to acquire a Soviet T-34 tank that was given to the United States by Premier Gorbachev in 1992 to commemorate the end of the Cold War.

Please consider making a donation to the Cold War Museum's general fund. Your year-end gift will help us plan for the new year and the new physical location. Tax-deductible contributions and artifact donations to the Museum will ensure that future generations will remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country. Please help spread the word about the Museum. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions or want additional information, please contact:

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A Few Words From The Editor...

Bryan J. Dickerson

Confrontation. If one word could summarize what the Cold War was all about, “confrontation” would be a most likely candidate. The Cold War was typified by confrontations between the US and Soviet Union; confrontation between democracy and communism; confrontations that took place in the air, in the depths of the sea, along borders and across negotiating tables. Some confrontations had the potential for World War III. Others were less serious. Some confrontations are very well known while others are known just to those who participated in them.

In this issue of *Cold War Times*, we have two interesting Cold War confrontations for your review. First, Lt. Col. William Haynes, USAF (Ret.) relates a little known incident between American F84 fighter pilots and CzechoSlovak Mig fighter pilots over southeastern Bavaria in 1952 that he participated in. The second is Brig. Gen. Albin Irzyk, USA (Ret.)’s account of the 1961 Berlin Crisis during which he served as the commander of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Fulda on the Inner-German Border.

As I announced in the last issue, Cold War Times will be published bi-monthly this year starting with this issue. With the addition of Contributing Editor Bill Craig, we now have the staff and the talent to bring you CWT more frequently.

Speaking of our Contributing Editor, Bill Craig arranged for us to re-print part of an excellent address on Russian history delivered by Suzanne Massie before the World Affairs Council of Washington in May 2001. Mrs. Massie reminds us that the Cold War was but one period in Russia’s very long history. Keeping that in mind helps us to better understand the Cold War and gives perspective to the future of U.S. / Russian relations.

Cold War Notes & News

2002 Conference of Army Historians

Call for Papers

The U.S. Army Center of Military History is soliciting papers for the 6-8 August 2002 biennial Conference of Army Historians, to be held in the Washington, D.C., area. This biennial conference has traditionally featured presentations on joint and combined military history as well as papers presented by civilian historians from government and academia. As such, we are very pleased to invite members of the international and academic communities to both attend and present papers on the 2002 theme of "The Cold War Army, 1947-1989."

Papers may deal with any aspect of the U.S. Army's role during the Cold War and may range from panels on the Cold War in Europe, to include the different perspectives of NATO and Warsaw Pact countries; the war in Vietnam and perspectives of the Pacific nations regarding the U.S. Army; Army training and preparation for the war that never came; and the different societal and cultural issues the Army faced during this sometimes tumultuous 40-year period. These are but some of the topics that may be presented.

Presenters should be prepared to speak for 20 minutes. Should the Center of Military History decide to publish the conference papers, the presenters will have an opportunity to submit a formal paper for consideration. Further information on the conference location will be forthcoming on the Center of Military History Website www.army.mil/cmh-pg.

Prospective participants should send their proposed topics to Dr. Robert Rush, U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: DAMH-FPF, 103 Third Avenue, Fort McNair, DC 20319-5058, telephone (202) 685-2727. Dr. Rush may also be contacted by e-mail at robert.rush@hqda.army.mil.

Life of a Blue Noser

By R.G. Haller, USN / USMM -MSC

We traveled north , almost as far as you can go...We hunted... and found our prey.....We stayed for almost a year... and yet never strayed we stood fast...But went Dead-slow ahead... We all earned Blue Noses.. and so justly deserved .. We fought in the front lines of the Cold War. But never as k for more... We kept the Commies at Bay....and ate a lot of canned food.. . We stayed on station.. we fought the War... we never had any real close support.. But still stayed brave. did are drills. practice small arms. and never worried about being in harm's way.. We stayed more then a year, with out fear or shedding a tear worked with 104 degree fever.. and watch my Chief mate Tom burning up sick. But I still turned to..in the blue Atlantic...Badgers to the Port of me... Badgers to the Starboard of me.. Bears at the bow.. a Mig at the stern... But we stayed at our station. our post.. But we are the U.S. Merchant Marines and the USN and the MSC, are fear less.. We did our duty. We did our job.. We stood our watches... We did our jobs, We stood fast. and we never budged We stayed a very long time. But never tired. . Had sleepless nights. But never got tired.. ran out of food . but never got hungry...Some of us got sick.. But always turned to... never had mail from home... But tried not to think about it... only that we were making a difference, were making it a safer world to live in.. Lived in the dark , but was never in it.. We are the all American unsung Heroes .We were the crew of the USNS.-Stalwart T-AGOS #1..., USNS-Vinticator-T-AGO-S#3 by RG.Haller,USN.-USMM/MSC. 10- 07-2001... a blue-nose.....

New web addresses for www.RB-29.net

(see August issue, News from the Net)

<http://www.RB-29.net/HTML/kcoynestory.htm/01coynsty.htm>

<http://www.RB-29.net/HTML/biomaster/biosniker/00.25biosnkr.htm>

Happy Holidays! Chuck Stone

Cold War Service Medal (CWSM) Update...

By Joe Martin, Guest Contributor

The Fiscal Year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act of 12 December 2001, (Senate Bill S. 1438, Section 566) states:

"It is the sense of Congress...that the Secretary of Defense should implement the issuance of a Campaign Medal known as the Cold War Service Medal...to all US Military Veterans who served Honorably and faithfully during the Cold War 1945-91."

In other words, Congress and Senate have sent this to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and the Defense Department for action on awarding the CWSM. This would be good, generally, but the Department has been against this medal from the start, and is known to hold support of it now.

Please alert any and all interested Cold War Veterans and friendlies to contact Secretary Rumsfeld and the Defense Department ASAP to get our CWSM. I understand from Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) that this is on the calendar and will be acted upon in the near future by Secretary Rumsfeld.

Searching For...

At Yokota Air Base, Japan between 1945 and 1952, there was a most unusual aircraft on display. For much of that time, it was displayed in a traffic circle in front of the 441st Air Police Squadron. The plane was a Japanese Nakajima Ki-115 Tsurugi, a radial-engine aircraft designed for suicide missions. It was painted in Japanese markings except for a brief period, circa. February 1951, when it was attired in bogus U.S. national insignia. I am looking for anyone who might be able to lend a photo or color slide of this Ki-115 display aircraft.

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Cold War Submarine Memorial Update

Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Charleston, SC

By Rusty Pickett, Captain USN (Ret)

Executive Director Cold War Submarine Memorial Foundation

The ***Cold War Submarine Memorial Foundation*** is constructing a unique and breathtaking memorial to honor all the members of our Armed Forces as represented by those members of our Cold War Submarine Force and specifically the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN) force. Located in at the harbor in Charleston, South Carolina, the Memorial will honor the whole Submarine community, including submarine support and industry personnel, and the families, who contributed to this major effort. Specifically, these bold SSBN sailors went to sea loaded and capable of initiating nuclear holocaust, while charged with the solemn responsibility of preventing it.

The brave men who manned those SSBN's and sailed on patrol for more than two months at a time played a major and pivotal role in the defeat of Communism. The Cold War is an example of an undeclared war that will soon be forgotten if we do not do what we can to memorialize these patriotic Americans and to educate future generations about the sacrifices they, their families, and the people that supported them made to preserve our freedom.

The Cold War Submarine Memorial will be constructed around the actual sail (conning tower) and rudder of *USS LEWIS AND CLARK* (SSBN 644). The hull form and surrounding contoured landscaping will provide the unmistakable appearance of a submarine underway, surfaced, and returning from sea. Situated adjacent to the submarine hull will be a flagpole in a dramatic plaza with a compass rose inlaid in its deck. The Memorial will be the focal point of the entrance to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum. The Museum is home of the World War II aircraft carrier *USS YORKTOWN*, the

diesel submarine *USS CLAMAGORE*, the destroyer *USS LAFFEY*, the USCG Cutter *INGHAM* and the nation's Congressional Medal of Honor Museum. By establishing the Cold War Submarine Memorial at Patriots Point, recognition of the role of our Armed Forces as represented by our Submarines and Submariners during the Cold War will be forever preserved. The awesome "power for peace" of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine, a strategic deterrent force – at sea, undetectable, vigilant, and survivable – will be visualized for this and future generations to behold and understand.

The Cold War Submarine Memorial will help motivate our youth on the importance of military service, dedication to what's right, and commitment to freedom. It will provide an educational opportunity for school children and visiting adults, allowing them to contemplate this significant chapter in our nation's history. It will enhance programs currently conducted at Patriots Point including the JROTC Leadership and History Seminars and the Patriots Point Youth Leadership Conferences, which focus on the cost and duties of freedom and instill in our youth the essence of the American character.

Groundbreaking is planned for the spring of 2002, with completion and dedication in the fall of 2002. Further information is available at www.cwsmf.org, or by writing the Cold War Submarine Memorial Foundation at P.O. Box 31913, Charleston, SC 29417.

Do You Have Cold War News for Cold War Times?

Send submissions for *Cold War Times News & Notes* to editor@coldwartimes.com.

Cold War Times is still accepting article submissions for future issues. See the August 2001 issue for author submission guidelines. Submission deadlines for upcoming issues are 15 February (March issue), 15 April (May issue), and 15 June (July issue).

Questions / Comments / Suggestions may be directed to
Bryan J Dickerson, editor@coldwartimes.com

Description of a MiG Encounter : West Germany, August 1952

By William E. Haynes, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)

In August, 1952 I was enjoying my second year as a young “jock” (fighter pilot) flying the F-84 almost daily out of Fuerstenfeldbruck Air Force Base, near Munich, West Germany, under the frequently challenging European weather conditions. My wife had just delivered our first child, Susan, and life was good. My squadron, the 23rd Tactical Fighter Squadron Hawks (the “Big Two Three” to us) was part of the 36th TF Wing, part of EuCom (U S European Command) under NATO.

Jet flying was still pretty new. Our airplanes had a bit over two hours flight duration under most conditions, and that caused most stateside jet units to fly primarily in good weather. In Europe we did not have that luxury, and flew as many as sixteen ship “gaggles” even when there was a solid overcast at just a couple hundred feet. We developed procedures for flying penetrations, climbing out two aircraft at a time and joining up on top in four, four-ship fingertip formations in trail. The two-ship element would take off in formation and climb up on top. The element leader had to fly very smoothly, and the wing man kept his eyes glued on his leader’s tip tank lights. I’ve made penetrations during which the clouds were so thick that I could see my leader’s wing tip lights but not my own! We flew extremely tight formation, with our wing a foot or two under lead’s and a foot or two behind, but with our own wing span overlapping lead’s by six or eight feet. This was complicated by the turbulence we frequently encountered during penetrations. After an hour of practice maneuvers on top, we would fly over one of our low frequency radio beacons, Illertissen or Mammendorf, break off four-ship flights, then two- ship elements and fly radar GCA’s (ground controlled approaches) to the inner beacon just off the end of the runway and then let down, still in two-ship formation, to where we could see to land. Even the younger pilots

such as I took this for granted, to the amazement of stateside jocks when they first arrived in Europe.

On the day of the events which I will describe, we were enjoying rare late summer good weather. We had clear skies and excellent visibility all over the Zone, as we referred to the Allied occupation zones that constituted West Germany. I was standing by for a mission with my element leader, Lt. (later Colonel) Tom Arnold. Our squadron was on alert because of several reports of MiGs flying along the German-Czechoslovakia border. That border was clearly defined, as it ran right along the spine of a mountain range. It was only minutes away for a jet, and in low visibility conditions demanded great care and attention to radio beacon bearings and radar aids to avoid violations. Violating any East German or other border with Soviet controlled territory was to be avoided with extreme caution, as we knew of instances when our people had been shot down out of hand. That, however, did not preclude occasional instances, when weather was poor and we had only a couple of hundred foot ceiling, of the sudden appearance of a strange aircraft flying the length of our runway, close to the ground and disappearing back into the weather at the other end - we had just been visited by a Russian reconnaissance airplane. Theirs was a pretty impressive performance, considering they were over a hundred miles from their border, had to navigate very accurately at high speed under the overcast in order to arrive right on the end of our runway, lined up for their photo run.

On the day in question the flight that we were relieving on border patrol reported seeing MiGs flying along the border, so we took off with our .50 caliber machine guns charged and gun camera film in our gun sights; not a usual procedure. The 16 mm black and white gun camera was set to look along the gun's line of sight and record whenever the trigger on our stick was pulled. Activating it could occur two ways. If you pushed a toggle switch on the instrument console on your left aft, you were in camera only mode. Push it forward and you were in "guns and camera" mode. The difference had been brought home to all us pilots a

few weeks earlier when one of our pilots, Charlie Gunther (forever after referred to as “Guns Gunther”) pushed it the wrong way and strafed the grass (fortunately) at the French air base we were subjecting to what was supposed to be a simulated attack. The French had registered a diplomatic protest even before we got back home to base.

On this mission Tom and I proceeded to the Czech border visually at about twenty thousand feet and began our CAP (combat air patrol... same as the F-16's are now flying over US cities) from south to north. I was on his left wing. We were spaced out perhaps a couple of hundred yards apart. That was standard fighter tactics as it enabled us each to watch the other's “six” (six o'clock, or directly behind, using a clock face to designate direction) and shoot anyone who would approach from behind (up his tail). That had me looking to the right toward the Czech border, and resulted in my calling out to Tom: “Lead, couple of MiGs approaching at three o'clock, low .” Tom looked and also spotted them. They were already clearly across the border and headed into West Germany about five thousand feet below us and descending at high speed. The wing man was in trail, about four or five MiG lengths behind his leader, and it was clear that they had not spotted us. As we turned west and started our descent I called out that “I'll take the leader”, as I was on the inside of our turn. Tom responded with: “Roger; gun switch to camera only”, which I acknowledged. Our rules of engagement read that we could only use our guns if we were being attacked. By this time I'm sure Tom's adrenaline was flowing just as mine was.

We quickly closed on the MiGs using full throttle as well as our altitude advantage to gain speed. We were now directly behind them at their altitude and closing the remaining distance rapidly. They clearly had no idea we were anywhere around. Shortly I passed the wing man on his left and only yards away, taking gun camera pictures all the way in. The lead MiG showed the 120 degree tri-color pie insignia of the Czech air force on his wings and was filling my windscreen as I rapidly overtook him. My camera was also recording the West German landscape below and documenting their border violation. Tom called out: “He's turning in on you!” ... meaning the wing man. I said: “You know what to do”. The

wing man was now about two seconds away from shooting me off his lead's tail, and that allowed us to arm our guns. Just at this hypercritical split second both MiGs broke right and raced for the Czech border, where they took up a south bound course just inside Czech airspace, thereby proving that they knew all along that they were in Germany.

"Racecard" was the call sign of our local radar station. They confirmed having tracked us all from the beginning and also having heard and recorded our radio transmissions. We completed our patrol, were relieved by another pretty excited pair of "Big Two Three" jocks, also with guns loaded and just dying to get themselves a MiG, and returned to "Fursty" and a really big welcome. I wanted to see my gun camera film, which was developed immediately and also immediately classified "Secret" or higher. No amount of begging was able to get me even a single picture of that Czech MiG! You see, I didn't have high enough clearance! But we all saw the film several times before it disappeared forever into some secret archive.

But that's far from the end of the story. The very next day two other of our pilots, Kelly and Brown, were on the same patrol in the same area, but unfortunately not adequately alert. Their first indication of trouble was when Brown's F-84 took a burst of cannon fire from an errant MiG, also well inside the German border, and went out of control. Brown ejected while Kelly looked in vain to see where the MiG had gone. Two more F-84's were immediately dispatched, but it was much too late. Clearly, our sneaking up on those MiGs had infuriated the Czech pilot and he was out for revenge. He also did not appreciate the self control Tom and I had shown by obeying our orders instead of shooting him and his wing man down, as we easily could have. That was not the last trick pulled on us by our Commie neighbors. We had a low frequency radio beacon that was just off Fursty air base and showed us the way home. One day two of our pilots were homeward bound on top of a thick overcast. They had the beacon turned on and were headed home, or so they thought. The wing man was Ed Luby, an ex-navigator, just as I was, and he became concerned that they were heading too far East and taking too long to get there. He called his leader and expressed his concern, but lead insisted that he had Fursty right on his nose. Ed decided to

check with Munich Armed Forces Network radio and discovered that Munich was off his right wing, not ahead where it was supposed to be. He called Lead again but got a brush-off. Then Ed did what a wing man is absolutely never supposed to do: he turned right and left his leader, tuned in Fursty tower and got a steer home. He landed with, as the expression goes, a “cupful” of JP left. His leader continued to the beacon, did a let down and saw nothing but MiG s on the base he flew over. That’s when it finally dawned on him that he’d been had. He turned back to Germany and made it back across the border but ran out of gas and bellied into the snowy landscape. Investigation showed that the Commies had set up a beacon only a few Kc away in frequency from ours and with a call letter code that was also almost indistinguishable from ours to a casual listener. Such were the dirty tricks we encountered in Europe in the ‘50’s. Thank God all that is behind us, and Russia is now campaigning for a close association with NATO. No one would ever have believed that back then.

The 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Berlin Crisis 1961

By Brig. Gen. Albin Irzyk, USA (Ret.)

Millions of words have been written, documentaries produced, and books published about the Cuban Crisis in the fall of 1962. Ironically, a crisis occurred – not in Cuba, but in Europe a year earlier --- in August of 1961. This crisis is known as “The Berlin Crisis.” It was by far the tensest moment of the Cold War to date. The Russians and Americans came as close to World War III as they did a year later. Despite the extreme seriousness of the situation, relatively little is known about this historical episode and little has been written about it.

1961 was a year of great historical importance. John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as President on January 20th. I assumed command of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment on March 6th. In April the disastrous Bay of Pigs fiasco occurred. On June 3-4 Khrushchev and Kennedy met in Vienna to take measure of each other. Khrushchev concluded that Kennedy was inexperienced and weak. During the weeks after, Kennedy and Khrushchev bickered back and forth about Berlin. Khrushchev maintained a belligerent posture.

The "Berlin Crisis" was already taking shape.

At that time, Gen. Lauris Norstad, Commander of NATO forces, had under his command 22 divisions, several of which were badly under-strength. The Russians had a massive ground force. According to NATO intelligence estimates, they could field sixty powerful divisions almost immediately, and 130 within a month.

In Fulda I received word that at 10 A.M. on August 14th the East Germans were at work just inside their border constructing a barrier. This would become the "Berlin Wall." I immediately provided the Regiment with this information. I also told all commanders to be alert, and to be prepared on a moment's notice to drop what they were doing, and on order to move to their prepared positions. My great concern was about what action our forces in Berlin might take to try to stop the construction and thus provoke an incident. I learned later that no action would be taken, because the construction was just inside their side of the border. If we took any action, it could be construed as an invasion into their occupied zone. Nevertheless a high degree of uneasiness persisted throughout the Regiment.

Although we were half expecting something more to happen, we were totally unprepared for the shattering blow with which we were soon hit. I received the amazing word from Corps headquarters that Khrushchev had closed Allied ground access to Berlin along the Helmstedt/Berlin Autobahn --- the only ground corridor open to us.

I immediately recognized this as a development of frightening import, and without waiting for instructions from higher headquarters ordered the Regiment to move without delay to our pre-planned defensive positions. We had movement alerts once a month. These could come at any time – day or night. Whenever we moved out, through the streets of the German community, be it 4 P.M. or 2 A.M., the German people would be hanging out their windows. On this occasion, they were hanging out their windows, as always, but their faces had a different look. They somehow “knew” that this was not a normal exercise. The faces showed puzzlement, anxiety and even fear.

Before I moved into position, I sent information to all dependents emphasizing the seriousness of the situation, and instructed them to thoroughly check their evacuation kits, and to be prepared to move, if necessary, to the rear in accordance with provisions of the evacuation plan. After we were in position, the speculation and conjecturing began and became rampant.

During that period, Berlin was like an island to US forces. The city was in the middle of the east zone. US military forces occupied the US sector of Berlin, but surrounding the city were adversarial forces. Going in and out of Berlin by air was no problem. But going in and out on the ground was a problem. To get to Berlin from the US West zone required traversing a wide portion of the Communist East Zone. Since the Russians controlled the East Zone, they had control over our movements. Accordingly they established a single highly restricted and controlled corridor that the US could use to move vehicular traffic from the West Zone to Berlin. This corridor went along the autobahn from Helmstedt on the western border of the German Democratic Republic to Berlin, and was approximately 110 miles in length. Now that was closed to us. What next?

With each hour that passed tension increased. What would the next move be? Who would make it? A feeling of pessimism prevailed. We had a new young President whose

adversary was a belligerent Russian who appeared to be dominating him. The Russian seemed to be controlling the situation, throwing his weight around, and calling the shots. In 1948, the Russian high command in Berlin had closed ground access to the US. President Truman had the option of evacuating the city, or endeavoring to supply it by air. He chose the latter and the famous Berlin Airlift proved to be a success. Was this déjà vu all over again? Was Khrushchev going to make it tough for us? Was he testing the new young President? Each hour that passed for us seemed like an eternity.

Then out of a clear blue sky came absolutely astonishing , electrifying news. We learned on the 19th of August that a resolute, determined, courageous President Kennedy had ordered an American unit in strength to proceed from Helmstedt, and traverse the autobahn to Berlin.

Tension which had been intensifying by the hour now reached an unbelievable pitch. Tension became so tight and crisp that it crackled. We later learned that tension was extreme, as well, at the White House. An aide was later heard to say that talking to the President was like talking to a statue.

Word was received that the 1st Battle Group of the 8th Infantry Division numbering about 1,500 men were on the move. The infantry were mounted in trucks and had some armor with them.

We were holding our breaths. It was not inconceivable that we might soon be in a fire fight, so we were surely “leaning forward” in our foxholes. We tried to visualize the possibilities and probabilities. The convoy could proceed to Berlin without being stopped. The convoy could be stopped by a physical road block covered by military troops, and told to return to the West. Or it could be fired upon by Russian tanks and stopped. If either of these provocations occurred, what would be the actions of the US force? What orders had the commander received from the President? If he was told that his mission was to get to

Berlin, and to “shoot it out” if necessary, World War III was hanging in the balance. If the US forces fired on the Russians, or returned fire, the Russians with troops nearby and at the ready would surely escalate the situation. A move to the West by Russians in strength could easily be the next step.

On the other hand, the convoy could have been proceeding along the autobahn without any semblance of resistance, when out of nowhere came a rifle shot. Trouble? Halt the convoy? How to know that it was a careless shot from a trigger happy Russian soldier. But after all, it did not take an exchange of tank fire to start World War One.

At last more electrifying news. This time it was great news, positive news, and as good as it could possibly be. The battle group was INSIDE Berlin, and had reached there on August 20th without incident. No confrontation. Khrushchev had backed off. No World War III. And Vice President Johnson who had been dispatched to Berlin by President Kennedy was on hand to greet the Battle Group.

Soon a vastly relieved, whipped, completely rung out group of 14th ACR troopers began readying to return to garrison. An unbelievable week with endless possibilities, many of them truly alarming, had ended on the most happy note possible. This time the troopers were cheered by the German populace as they returned to their barracks – back to normal activity.

My period in command of the 14th ACR was a busy one with daily problems, challenges and accomplishments. But without question the defining episode during my tour with the Regiment just had to be the Berlin Crisis of August 1961.

The 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment during its long service on the border had tension, incidents, provocations, alerts, pressures, and confrontations. Service along the border was not easy. However, I have to believe that for the Regiment, as well, its defining period was the days of the Berlin Crisis. I am convinced that at no other time during its service in Germany was the Regiment more prepared for, more reconciled to, and closer to war than it was in August of 1961.

"Why Are We Always Wrong about Russia?"

by Suzanne Massie

[Contributing Editor's Note: Following is an excerpt from an address Mrs. Massie gave to the World Affairs Council of Washington in May 2001. For 34 years she has had a relationship with Russia and its people. In the full speech she notes that "For 85 years successive American administrations have been dominated by basic premises about Russia based on selective and often narrowly focused views of an establishment that have led to a succession of wrong assessments and wrong policies." However, she is optimistic about current developments in Russia and the future of the Russian people, and hopeful about relations between our two countries. This portion of the speech is reproduced with Mrs. Massie's and the Council's permission. The full text of the speech is on the Council's website at http://worldaffairsc.org/back/massie_speech.HTML]

All during the 30's despite the fact that there were hundreds of articles, books and reports (from Trotsky to the Dewey Commission) about the brutal nature of the regime, all went unheard among large sections of well informed people. Western capitals were full of artists and writers, (among them Aragon, Sartre and Gide, Picasso, Theodore Dreiser, Lillian Hellman, Corliss Lamont, Harold Lasky) doctors, lawyers and debutantes chanting praises and apologias of the Soviet regime. Appeals and manifestos attacked any who spoke otherwise.

With the coming of the war Stalin became the friendly "Uncle Joe". The Russians were to pay with millions of lives (20 million is the figure often cited) for which Uncle Joe was rewarded at Yalta by being ceded large tracts of the world allowing the Soviet Union to profit from whatever was left of industrial riches in Eastern Europe. And, in one of the most disgraceful chapters of this dismal history, because "Uncle Joe insisted", the United States and Britain, contrary to all International Covenants agreed to the forced repatriation of

millions of Russian prisoners and slave laborers held by Germany who were sent to death in the camps of the Gulag or simply shot. (In 1944 Vice President Wallace visited Magadan and pronounced it a "model camp".) Today with archives opened it is estimated that some 60 million Russian citizens were exterminated in the purges, repressions and camps of Stalin. One may well ask how could this have happened without a single objection from any Western leader.

In the 1950's the picture is reversed. Policies that had helped to elevate the Soviet Union to the status of superpower had created a Frankenstein that had turned against us. Because of increasingly hostile and aggressive acts the Soviet Union now became The Enemy. Yet the same underlying cultural representations continued as before just as unnuanced and even strengthened. Previously the commissars were Good because they overthrew the Bad Tsars - now they have become like the Bad Tsars. From now on Tsars and Commissars are said to be identical. The image of the church remains-- only now it is subservient to the new Bad Tsars. The Soviet Union becomes All Bad, monolithic, all-powerful, whose people, it is reasoned, must be content " or they would do something about it." There is nothing for us to do but to "contain" or " accommodate" the monster. The Cold War begins, leading us to the doctrine of MAD and arms control agreements which remain the dominating policy of the US for 40 years.

The Soviet Union was always remarkably successful at forming opinions, relentlessly working over decades to shape the image of the Revolution, targeting intellectuals and opinion makers, limiting and controlling all contacts. Our embassies, obsessed with security were limited to official contacts -- none with ordinary Russians. Knowing full well that academics in the field needed access in order " to publish or perish", the Soviet authorities carefully controlled visas as well as access to archives, materials and sources limiting not only how topics were treated but what was to be treated. By discouraging all other aspects of study they encouraged self-censorship and so spawned a whole school of Kremlinologists and Sovietologists (note: no Russologists) who were increasingly called on as "experts" by politicians. Thus wrong thinking begat more wrong thinking. The proof of how effective this

process was is that after the collapse of the Soviet regime in 1991 entire university departments have disappeared. During these years the non- Communist Russian population, always a majority, vanished from sight in the melding of the words Soviet and Russian which were used as synonyms. (A Russian sadly asked me once, "Why is it always Soviet sputniks and Russian tanks?")

The one-sided monolithic view of the Soviet Union was to turn out to be just as mistaken as the earlier one-sided euphoric view of the 30's. Accepting the Soviet Union as immutable and the Communist regime as a permanent part of the world scene was to blind us to the growing inner tensions of the society and within the regime itself- all of which were eroding the legitimacy of Communism (if indeed it had ever had any) among the people.

In 1956 Khrushchev in his revelation of Stalin's crimes at the 20th Party Congress opened a Pandora's box that was never to be closed. In the 60's and with accelerating force throughout the 70's there was an increasingly visible and vocal voicing of dissatisfaction with the regime. This took many forms: the ever bolder outspokenness and "unofficial" artistic expression, the massive popularity of poets, the human rights and emigration movements, the steady and visible growth of the church. Increasingly emboldened, more and more people began to take risks.

Yet the conventional wisdom in the United States held that any idea of basic change in the system was impossible. It was too strongly entrenched and the people by and large content. The policy of "detente" and building stabilizing " webs of trade" with the stagnating Brezhnev regime discounted all these signs of change in the USSR as being too small and insignificant to matter and even often viewed the more and more vocal expressions of dissatisfaction in the Soviet Union as potentially detrimental and destabilizing to the grand plan.

(When in 1972 Senator Henry Jackson introduced a congressional amendment that would tie most favored nation status to emigration and human rights he was widely attacked and

his amendment criticized as "counter productive"). Perhaps nothing better illustrates this spirit of non-response than the shabby treatment afforded to Solzhenitsyn in the United States. The publication of *The Gulag Archipelago* in 1974 silenced all apologies and arguments about the "model camps" for good. Yet after Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union there were concentrated journalistic attempts to discredit him in the United States. This Nobel prize winner whose courage and pen had changed history was not received at White House by President Ford because " it might anger the Soviets ". And when he came to our country in 1980 it was no university, no congressional committee but the union bosses of the AFL-CIO who invited him to make his first speech on our shores - a speech which the New York Times neglected to cover.

It would take Reagan in 1980 to break the mold with his declaration that the Communist system was evil, for which he was roundly criticized by both the bureaucracy and liberals for being so untactful. (The reaction in Soviet Union was different-several Russians I know said "right on".) How much Reagan's actions affected the subsequent collapse of the USSR will no doubt be discussed by historians for years to come. My own belief is that Reagan's determined stance profoundly affected the evolution of the end, and perhaps may even have helped to exacerbate the inner tensions of the regime and lead to the choice of Gorbachev. Whatever the case, by ignoring all models Reagan was able to forge a relationship and a break through in relations.

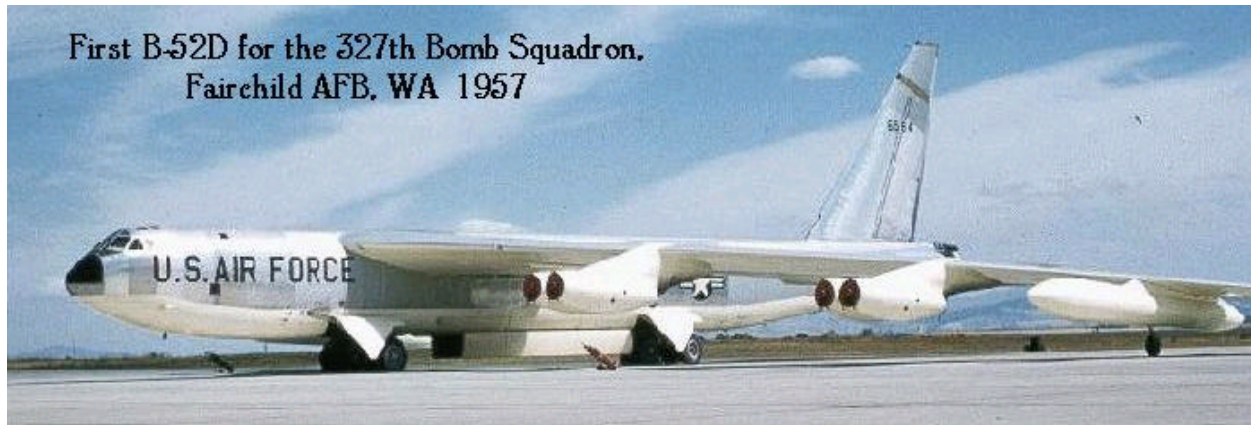
But in 1988 after Reagan, bureaucratic caution and status quo quickly set in again. Thinking was so wedded to the immutability of Communism that three weeks before the fall of Gorbachev, President Bush gave a speech in Kiev still assuming the permanence and supporting the legitimacy of the Soviet Union (Not surprisingly this speech seems not to be included among the many speeches on his web site.) When a few months later in 1991 the regime collapsed as suddenly as a bad soufflé our government was taken by complete surprise with no policies or preparations in place to deal with the change.

News from the Net...

Tales from the Cold War & Strategic Air Command (SAC)

By Col. Phil Rowe, USAF (Ret.)

Former B-52 and B-58 air crew member describes what it was like in the Cold War days in SAC. A collection of short stories (mostly true) depict life on a bomber crew during the era of airborne and ground alert. Generously illustrated with photographs, this slice of what it was like is informative and sometimes amusing. Also included are other stories of GI life from the 50's to the mid-70's. Phil Rowe served as a navigator, radar bombardier, electronic warfare officer and R&D engineer, as well as serving in Vietnam in RF-4C's with 168 combat missions under his belt. His logbook records flying time in 33 types and models of USAF planes from single engine to eight engines and props to jets. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and nine Air Medals. His career began as an enlisted recruit and culminated as Director of Engineering in the E-3A (AWACS) R&D program office. To see these stories, go to WWW site: <http://philrowe.topcities.com>



1991 - The End of the Cold War

By Bryan J. Dickerson

The year 1991 was one of great monumental change. The year began with Soviet troops opening fire on civilians in Vilnius, Lithuania. The year 1991 ended with the end of the Soviet Union and the U.S. / Soviet Cold War.

When Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, the Soviet Union was on the verge of collapse caused by structural flaws inherent in communism. To his credit, he decided that liberalization and reform were needed to prevent that collapse.

But the forces which Gorbachev released grew beyond his control. In the final months of 1989, the Communist Bloc of Eastern European nations broke free of Soviet control and democratic governments replaced communist ones. The Berlin Wall fell and the two Germanys moved towards re-unification.

By January of 1991, the wave of democracy was lapping at the very shores of the Soviet Union. Fifty years after being annexed by the Soviet Union, the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia declared their independence in 1990 and held democratic elections. This greatly alarmed Communist hard-liners in Moscow. In January 1991, Gorbachev sent Soviet troops into Lithuania in an effort to suppress the independence movement. The new Lithuanian government gathered at the Vilnius radio and television building while a crowd of thousands of civilians assembled to protect them. On Sunday, the 13th of January 1991, Soviet paratroopers opened fire on the unarmed civilians, killing fourteen and wounding 700 more. The world was outraged.

For Gorbachev, 1991 just got progressively worse. The pro-democracy president of the Russian Republic Boris Yeltsin used the Lithuanian Bloody Sunday to rally support against

Gorbachev and the Communist hard-liners. Over the course of the year, Yeltsin and Russia gained in prominence. In August, a group of Communist hard-liners staged a coup in Moscow to seize control, and for a short time, Gorbachev was held captive. Yeltsin proved instrumental in putting down the coup. Not long after, Soviet republics began declaring their independence. In December, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was formed by Russia, the Baltic states, Belarus and several other Soviet republics.

With the rise of Russia and the creation of CIS, the Soviet Union's demise was inevitable. "Dear fellow countrymen, due to the situation that has evolved as a result of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I hereby discontinue my activities in the post of president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," Gorbachev announced to the world on Christmas Day, 1991. Shortly thereafter at 7:35 p.m. the red Soviet hammer and sickle flag was lowered at the Kremlin and replaced by the red, white and blue tri-color flag of Russia. The Soviet Union was no more.

Also that day, President Bush addressed the nation, the new Commonwealth of Independent States and the world:

"For over 40 years, the United States led the West in the struggle against communism and the threat it posed to our most precious values. This struggle shaped the lives of all Americans. It forced all nations to live under the specter of nuclear destruction."

"That confrontation is now over. The nuclear threat, while far from gone, is receding. Eastern Europe is free. The Soviet Union itself is no more. This is a victory for democracy and freedom. It's a victory for the moral force of our values. Every American can take pride in this victory, from the millions of men and women who have served our country in uniform, to millions of Americans who supported their country and a strong defense under nine Presidents."

In his State of the Union Address the following month, President Bush sounded a similar tone about the end of the Cold War. He did not gloat over the vanquishing of a foe. He

expressed relief that the possibility of nuclear war between the superpowers had been greatly diminished. Furthermore, Bush announced that he was halting production of several nuclear weapons systems and that he had proposed the reduction and elimination of other systems to President Yeltsin.

For over forty years, the United States and Soviet Union had waged Cold War against each other. Democracy and communism had struggled around the world over the fates of millions of people. Fortunately, the victory of democracy was brought about not by a massive shooting war but the will of the people of the communist nations.

Sources:

Public Papers of the Presidents - Bush. See volumes for 1991 and 1992.; John B. Dunlop's The Rise of Russia and the Fall of the Soviet Empire; David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran's A History of Russia, the Soviet Union and Beyond; and Michael R. Beschloss and Strobe Talbott's At the Highest Levels - The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War.

Cold War Tourist - Titan Missile Museum, Sahuarita, Arizona

From 1963 to 1987, the Titan II Inter-continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) served as a vital component of America's strategic nuclear deterrent force. In hardened silos in Arizona, Kansas, and Arkansas, the Titan IIs and the operators waited day and night, year-round for firing orders that fortunately never came.

The SM-68B (later LGM-25C) Titan II was the largest ICBM ever deployed by the United States. Armed with a single General Electric Mark 6 nuclear warhead, Titan II had a range of over 8,000 nautical miles. The liquid-fuelled missile was 103 feet long, 10 feet in

diameter and weighed 270,000 pounds loaded. The Titan II also served in the Space Program and was the launch vehicle for the Gemini space capsules.

The aging Titan II missiles were retired from service in the 1980s and their launch facilities destroyed in accordance with Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) provisions. Of these sites, only Complex 571-7 outside Tucson, Arizona, remains. The complex became operational in July of 1963 and remained so for over 20 years. In 1986, Complex 571-7 was turned over to the Pima Air and Space Museum by the U.S. Air Force and opened as the Titan Missile Museum in 1994. Tours are given of the silo. In addition, the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson has a large number of Cold War-era aircraft on display including two B52 Stratofortresses, a KB-50 Superfortress, and several Mig fighters.

Hours of Operation -

Nov. 1 - Apr. 30: Every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hours: 9-5.
May 1 - Oct. 31: Wed. - Sun. Hours: 9-5

Admission Fee Charged

Directions -

The Titan Missile Museum is located approximately 25 miles south of Tucson. From Tucson take I-19 south to Green Valley. Take exit 69 west 1/10 mile past La Canada to entrance.

For more information, visit www.pimaair.org, or call (520) 625-7736.

Cold War Books

I ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY: AMERICA'S COLD WAR AIRMEN

By Col. Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, USAF (Ret.)

With a foreword by Ken Hechler

University Press of Mississippi \$30.00, hardback, ISBN 1-57806-399-X

Cold War pilots remember the Berlin Airlift, Korea, Vietnam, and secret flights over the Soviet Union. No air campaign in American history lasted longer and was waged more secretly than the many flights and dogfights of the Cold War. Yet when retired United States Air Force Colonel Wolfgang W. E. Samuel interviewed Cold War pilots and ground crews, he noticed this generation of warriors had certain characteristics in common. Writing in his new book *I ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY: AMERICA'S COLD WAR AIRMEN* (University Press of Mississippi, September), Samuel noted they all felt their military careers ended too soon, all followed their dreams with tenacity, all raised their eyebrows at being called anything above "average men," and all felt extremely lucky both to have flown in combat and to have survived close scrapes in action. "I heard a common refrain," Samuel said of the flyers that inspired him to join the Air Force. "'I always wanted to fly,' they said again and again. 'I always wanted to fly.'" Until now, no book has covered all of Cold War air combat in the words of the men who waged it. In *I ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY*, Samuel has gathered first-person memories from heroes of the cockpits and airstrips. Battling in dogfights when jets were novelties, saving lives in grueling airlifts, or flying secret and dangerous reconnaissance missions deep into Soviet and Chinese airspace, these flyers waged America's longest and most secretly conducted air war. While young, the airmen were inspired by barnstormers, by World War I fighter legends, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh, and often just by seeing airplanes flying overhead. With the advent of World War II, many of these dreamers found themselves in cockpits soon after high school. Of

those who survived World War II, many chose to continue following their dream, flying the Berlin Airlift, stopping the North Korean army during the “forgotten war” in Korea, and fighting in the Vietnam War. Told in personal narratives and reminiscences, *I ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY* renders views from pilots’ seats and flight decks during every air combat flash-point from 1945-1968. Drawn from long exposure to the immense stress of warfare, the stories these warriors share are both heroic and historic. The author, a veteran of many secret reconnaissance missions, evokes individuals and scenes with authority and grace. He provides clear, concise historical context for each airman’s memories. Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, the author of *GERMAN BOY: A REFUGEE’S STORY* (University Press of Mississippi) and a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC in 1960, served in the U.S. Air Force until his retirement as a colonel in 1985. Ken Hechler is the author of *THE BRIDGE AT REMAGEN*.

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Orders may also be placed through the Cold War Museum. Contact gpowersjr@coldwar.org to place an order.

