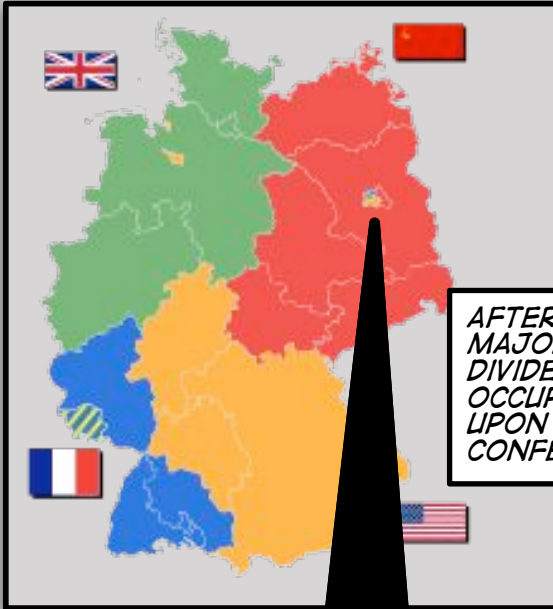
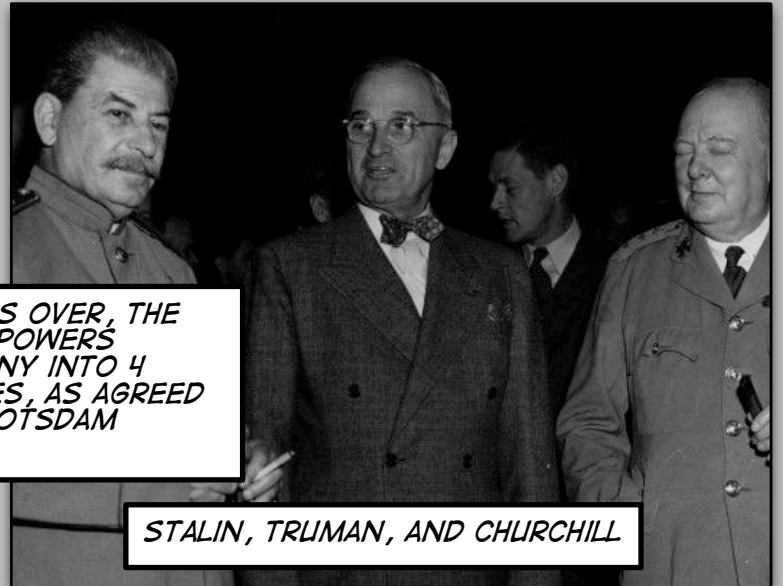


THE BERLIN BLOCKADE



AFTER WW2 WAS OVER, THE MAJOR ALLIED POWERS DIVIDED GERMANY INTO 4 OCCUPIED ZONES, AS AGREED UPON AT THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE



STALIN, TRUMAN, AND CHURCHILL



BERLIN, THE CAPITAL OF GERMANY, WAS ALSO SPLIT INTO 4 ZONES. BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION OF BERLIN, THE 3 WESTERN ZONES WERE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY SOVIET TERRITORY

GERMANY HAD BEEN DEVASTATED BY THE WAR. STALIN WANTED GERMANY PUNISHED FOR ATTACKING THE SOVIET UNION. HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE GERMANY GROW STRONG AGAIN.

AS THE WESTERN COUNTRIES BEGAN PLANS TO COMBINE THEIR ZONES INTO ONE, STALIN WAS STAGING A PLAN TO GET THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES OUT OF THE SOVIET ZONE.....





I WILL CUT OFF
WEST BERLIN FROM
THE REST OF THE
WORLD UNTIL THE U.S.
AND ENGLAND GIVE
INTO MY DEMANDS



THE BERLIN BLOCKADE BEGAN ON JUNE 24, 1948. STALIN HAD ALL STREET AND RAILROAD ACCESS INTO THE CITY FROM THE WESTERN ZONES CUT OFF.

THE CITY OF BERLIN HAD A POPULATION OF ABOUT 2.5 MILLION. PEOPLE WERE ALREADY STRUGGLING DUE TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR. NOW, NO SUPPLIES WOULD BE GETTING INTO THE CITY.

ACCORDING TO LUCIUS CLAY, THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE AMERICAN ZONE, "IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST RUTHLESS EFFORTS IN MODERN TIMES TO USE MASS STARVATION FOR POLITICAL COERCION..."



RAISING THE SOVIET FLAG ABOVE THE REICHSTAG



HOW ARE
WE GOING TO
SURVIVE?



WHEN THE BLOCKADE BEGAN IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE CITY HAD 35 DAYS WORTH OF FOOD AND 40 DAYS WORTH OF COAL



BERLINERS WERE BECOMING DESPERATE UNTIL...

GENERAL LUCIUS D. CLAY, IN CHARGE OF THE U.S. OCCUPATION ZONE IN GERMANY, REPORTED TO TRUMAN "WE ARE CONVINCED THAT OUR REMAINING IN BERLIN IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR PRESTIGE IN GERMANY AND IN EUROPE. WHETHER FOR GOOD OR BAD, IT HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN INTENT."

ALTHOUGH, THE ROADS AND RAILWAYS HAD BEEN BLOCKED OFF, THREE TWENTY-MILE WIDE AIR CORRIDORS PROVIDING FREE ACCESS TO THE CITY WERE AVAILABLE.



THE AMERICAN FORCES CONSULTED THE BRITISH ROYAL AIR FORCE ABOUT A POSSIBLE JOINT AIRLIFT. BRITISH AIR COMMODORE REGINALD WAITE HAD CALCULATED THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE ENTIRE CITY. HIS CALCULATIONS INDICATED THEY WOULD NEED TO SUPPLY SEVENTEEN HUNDRED CALORIES PER PERSON **PER DAY**, CONSISTING OF:

646 TONS OF FLOUR AND WHEAT, 125 TONS OF CEREAL,
64 TONS OF FAT, 109 TONS OF MEAT AND FISH,
180 TONS OF DEHYDRATED POTATOES, 180 TONS OF SUGAR,
11 TONS OF COFFEE, 19 TONS OF POWDERED MILK,
5 TONS OF WHOLE MILK FOR CHILDREN, 3 TONS OF FRESH YEAST FOR BAKING,
144 TONS OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES,
38 TONS OF SALT AND 10 TONS OF CHEESE.

IN TOTAL, 1,534 TONS WERE NEEDED **DAILY** TO KEEP THE OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE ALIVE. ADDITIONALLY, THE CITY NEEDED TO BE KEPT HEATED AND POWERED, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ANOTHER 3,475 TONS OF COAL AND GASOLINE.

WOULD THE ALLIES BE ABLE TO FLY IN SUPPLIES TO 2 MILLION PEOPLE?



C-47S AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT DURING BERLIN AIRLIFT.





PLANS WERE MADE...



SUPPLIES WERE COLLECTED...



PLANES WERE LOADED.





"OPERATION LITTLE VITTLES"

GAIL HALVORSEN, ONE OF THE MANY AIRLIFT PILOTS, DECIDED TO USE HIS OFFTIME TO FLY INTO BERLIN AND MAKE MOVIES WITH HIS HANDHELD CAMERA. HE ARRIVED AT TEMPELHOF ON JULY 17 AFTER HITCHING A RIDE ON ONE OF THE C-54S, AND WALKED OVER TO A CROWD OF CHILDREN WHO HAD GATHERED AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY TO WATCH THE PLANES COMING IN. HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF AND THEY STARTED TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT AND THEIR FLIGHTS. AS A GOODWILL GESTURE, HE HANDED OUT HIS ONLY TWO STICKS OF WRIGLEY'S DOUBLEMINT GUM, AND PROMISED THAT IF THEY DID NOT FIGHT OVER THEM, THE NEXT TIME HE RETURNED HE WOULD DROP OFF MORE. THE CHILDREN QUICKLY DIVIDED UP THE PIECES AS BEST THEY COULD. BEFORE HE LEFT THEM, A CHILD ASKED HIM HOW THEY WOULD KNOW IT WAS HIM FLYING OVER, AND HE REPLIED, "I'LL WIGGLE MY WINGS."

THE VERY NEXT DAY, ON APPROACH TO BERLIN, HE ROCKED THE AIRPLANE AND DROPPED SOME CHOCOLATE BARS ATTACHED TO A HANDKERCHIEF PARACHUTE TO THE CHILDREN WAITING BELOW. EVERY DAY AFTER THAT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WOULD INCREASE AND HE MADE SEVERAL MORE DROPS. SOON THERE WAS A STACK OF MAIL IN BASE OPS ADDRESSED TO "UNCLE WIGGLY WINGS", "THE CHOCOLATE UNCLE" AND "THE CHOCOLATE FLIER". HIS PROJECT BECAME KNOWN AS "OPERATION LITTLE VITTLES". OTHER PILOTS JOINED THE FUN, AND WHEN NEWS REACHED THE U.S., CHILDREN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SENT IN THEIR OWN CANDY TO HELP OUT. SOON THE MAJOR CANDY COMPANIES JOINED IN AS WELL. IN THE END, OVER THREE TONS OF CANDY WAS DROPPED OVER BERLIN, AND THE "OPERATION" BECAME A MAJOR PROPAGANDA SUCCESS.



HALVORSEN MAKING PARACHUTES OUT OF HANDKERCHIEFS



A GERMAN GIRL AFTER SHE CATCHES A "LITTLE VITTLE"



THANK YOU
FOR
SENDING US
SUPPLIES



THE LAST VITTLES FLIGHT LEFT RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1949

THE AIRLIFT WAS SUCCESSFUL FOR ALMOST A YEAR. AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH WEATHER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, THROUGH FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL 1949, AVERAGE TONNAGE SET NEW RECORDS EACH MONTH. IN FEBRUARY AVERAGE TONNAGE WAS 5,437 TONS PER DAY; IN MARCH IT INCREASED TO 6,328 TONS PER DAY; AND IN APRIL IT CLIMBED TO 7,845 TONS PER DAY.

MORE TONNAGE WAS NOW TRAVELING OVER THE AIRBRIDGE THAN HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO BERLIN BY TRUCK, RAIL, AND BARGE PRIOR TO MARCH 1948.

TO DEMONSTRATE THE AIRLIFT'S POTENTIAL TO THE SOVIETS AND THE WORLD, THE USAF PUT ON A SPECTACULAR SHOW OVER THE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT NOON, EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1949, DUBBED THE "EASTER PARADE." DURING THIS PERIOD, 1,398 FLIGHTS DELIVERED ALMOST 13,000 TONS OF COAL TO BERLIN. THIS NOT ONLY DEMONSTRATED THE LOAD CAPACITY, BUT ALSO THE ABILITY OF THE SYSTEM TO HANDLE AN UNPRECEDENTED DENSITY OF AIR TRAFFIC WITH ALMOST 2,800 INCOMING AND OUTGOING FLIGHTS AT THE THREE WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS LOCATED IN LESS THAN A 20 MILE RADIUS OF EACH OTHER. THE AIRBRIDGE HAD, ON A SINGLE DAY, HANDLED THE EQUIVALENT OF 600 RAIL CARS OF COAL WITHOUT INJURY OR ACCIDENT.



*EXCITEMENT FOR THE
AIRLIFTS NEVER
WANED*

*DUE TO THE SUCCESS OF
THE AIRLIFTS, THE SOVIET
UNION LIFTED THE
BLOCKADE ON MAY 11,
1949.*

*THE FIRST CRISIS OF THE
COLD WAR HAD BEEN
AVERTED.*

*UNFORTUNATELY, ANOTHER WOULD
BEGIN SOON WHEN THE SOVIETS BEGAN
TO BUILD A WALL AROUND BERLIN...*

