

# Fifty years that changed a nation

Half a century after the end of the Berlin Airlift – the biggest aid mission ever – the political capital of a reunified Germany has returned to the city. During the 462-day airlift more than 278,200 flights delivered 2.3 million tons of aid to the blockaded city

## Cargo airlifted – June 1948-Sep 1949:

	Food	Coal	Other	Total (tons)
U.S.	296,319	1,421,119	66,135	1,783,573
UK	240,386	164,911	136,640	541,937
France	N/A	N/A	N/A	896

**TOTAL: 2,326,406 Tons**

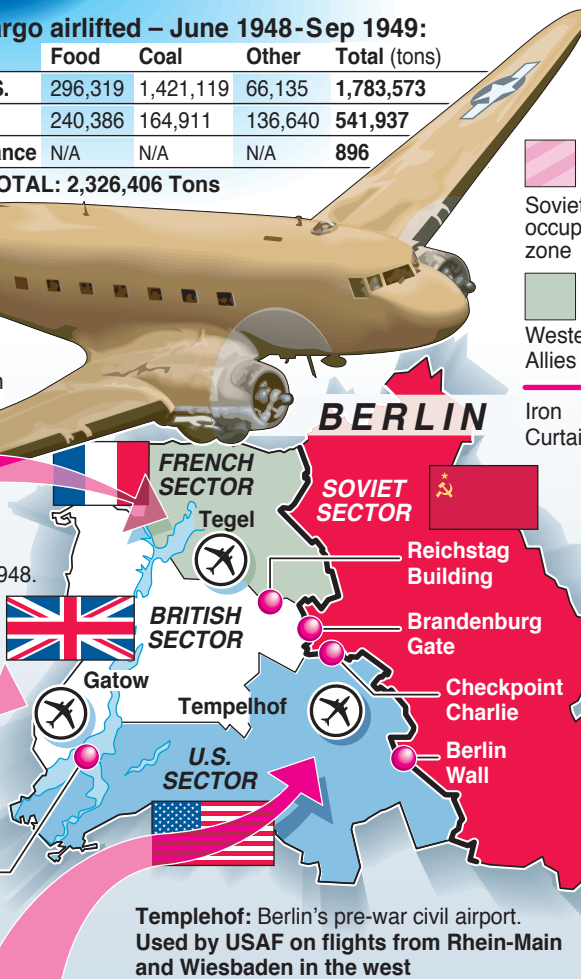
**Candy bomber:** Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen drops candy bars for children



**Tegel:** Built by U.S. – Opens to traffic in Nov 1948. Now Berlin's principle commercial airport

**Gatow:** Luftwaffe training station. 1947-1948: RAF lays 2,000-yard concrete runway

**Havel Lake:** Used by RAF Sunderland flying boats until winter ice becomes a hazard



**Tempelhof:** Berlin's pre-war civil airport. Used by USAF on flights from Rhein-Main and Wiesbaden in the west

**Soviet Union:** Engulfs Berlin at war's end. 20-mile-wide 'corridors' allow access to West Berlin



## From World War to Cold War to unity, peace and democracy

**Jul 1945** Soviet Union: Allows victorious western allies into Berlin – capital divided into four zones

**1945-1947** Big Four: Berlin governed by Allied Control Council – **Vassily Sokolovsky** (USSR), **Sir George Robertson** (UK), **Lucius D. Clay** (U.S.) and **Pierre Koenig** (France)



Gen. Sokolovsky

**Jun 24** Aid plan: U.S. Military Governor, Gen. Clay, has planes in Wiesbaden put on standby. RAF form plan to supply Berlin by air, Gen. Clay authorises airlift



Gen. Clay

**Jun 26** Airlift begins: More cargo delivered in March '49 alone than entire multinational airlift to Sarajevo in 1992-96

**Apr 1949** NATO: U.S., Canada and ten West European nations create NATO security alliance



**May** Blockades end: Soviets and West simultaneously lift blockades. Both sides claim victory but airlift continues until September 30

**Jun 1953** 6,000 East Berliners arrested in anti-communist protests

**Jun 26** Cold War: New battle looms as **Nikita Khrushchev** gives West six months to 'get out' of Berlin – hands power to Stalinist East German leader, **Walter Ulbricht**



**Aug 1961** Berlin Wall: Seals in East Berliners after defections mount to tens of thousands per year

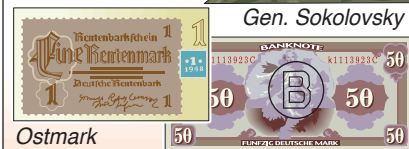
**Oct 1961** Checkpoint Charlie: Tension escalates as free movement of Allied and Soviet personnel hindered. U.S. and Soviet tanks face-off

**Oct 1989** Reform begins: East allows visits to the West and thousands flood through The Wall. Over next year The Wall is totally demolished



**Oct 1990** Cold War ends: Chancellor **Helmut Kohl** declares reunification on the steps of the Reichstag. Berlin restored as capital but Bonn remains seat of government.

**Sep 1999** New era: Chancellor **Gerhard Schroeder** heralds the **Berlin Republic**, as city becomes official seat of government



**Jun 1948** New Currency: West launches **Deutschmark** (B-Mark in Berlin). Denounced by **Sokolovsky** who prohibits use. Frontiers with west sealed. Soviets introduce **Ostmark** to East Germany and Berlin

**Jun 24** Blockade: Soviets cut electricity from East Berlin power stations – all routes blocked. West imposes counter blockade