

KEY PLAYERS



U.S. President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** (top), British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill**, (left), and Soviet leader **Joseph Stalin** meet at Yalta in February 1945. The "Big Three" agree to divide both Germany and city of Berlin into American, British, French and Russian zones following end of war in Europe



President **Harry S. Truman**, (left) sworn in following death of Roosevelt in April. General **Curtis E. LeMay**, Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe

■ **May 1945:** Nazi Germany surrenders, ending six-year war. Stalin takes huge reparations – and uses forced labour from East German zone – to fund rebuilding work in Soviet Union. Britain and America work to improve conditions in their zones

■ **Jun 23, 1948:** Britain and U.S. launch new currency in Western zones, replacing worthless Reichsmark with brand new Deutsche Mark. **Stalin reacts angrily, cutting all road and rail access to West Berlin – blockade begins**



General **Lucius D. Clay**, (left) devises plan to supply Berlin by air. Lt. Gen. "**Willie the Whip**" **Tunner**, appointed operational head of American-British airlift

City under siege: The Berlin Airlift

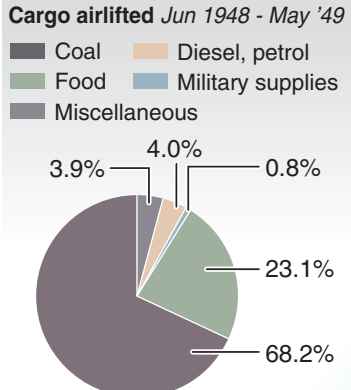
The Soviet blockade of Berlin became one of the greatest battlegrounds of the emerging Cold War between the Soviet Union and the West. With two million civilians and 20,000 allied troops in the British, French and American zones of the German capital facing starvation, Allied forces mounted a year-long air-bridge which became the largest humanitarian campaign the world has ever seen

Operation Vittles
During 318-day airlift U.S and British planes – joined by civil aircraft from Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand – fly 208 million km

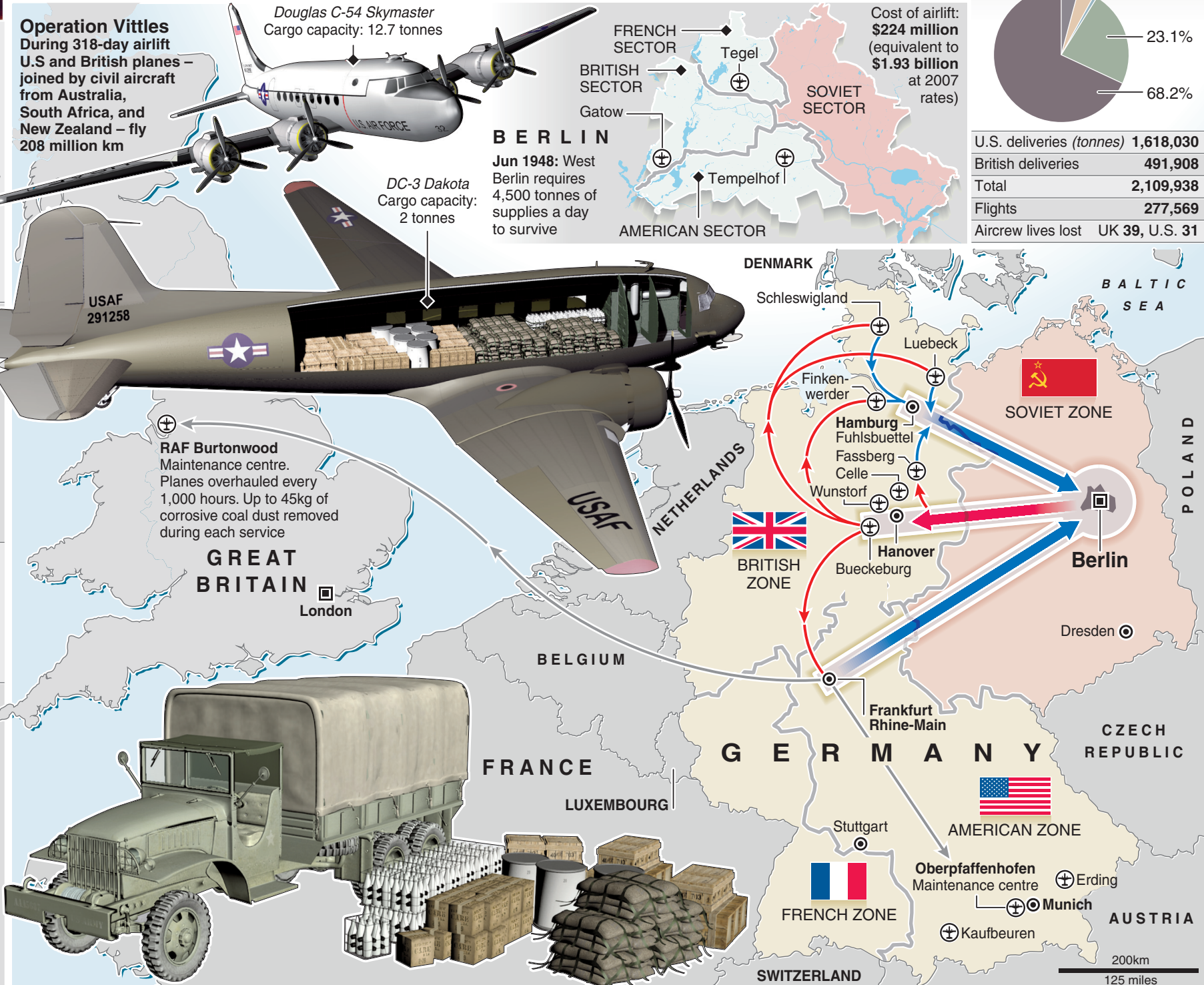
Douglas C-54 Skymaster
Cargo capacity: 12.7 tonnes

DC-3 Dakota
Cargo capacity: 2 tonnes

Cost of airlift: **\$224 million** (equivalent to **\$1.93 billion** at 2007 rates)



U.S. deliveries (tonnes)	1,618,030
British deliveries	491,908
Total	2,109,938
Flights	277,569
Aircrew lives lost	UK 39, U.S. 31



Jun 1948	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 1949	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Jun 26: Airlift begins – West Berlin has food for just 36 days	Deliveries average 2,000 tonnes a day Deliveries exceed 4,500-tonne target		An aircraft lands or takes off from Berlin airfields every 30 seconds	Soviet Union rejects UN Security Council resolution to end blockade		British civil airlines fly in 100,000 tonnes of coal and diesel in bid to stop people freezing to death		Supplies flown into Berlin reach total of 1 million tonnes	Apr 16: Gen. Tunner mounts Operation Easter Parade – 1,398 sorties fly in nearly 12,000 tonnes in single day		May 12: Soviets abandon blockade