

## **THE COLD WAR MUSEUM - BERLIN**

In a reunited Germany, in a Europe without the "Iron Curtain" it would be easy to forget the terrors of the Cold War.

On the 1st of May 1960, an American U2 reconnaissance (spy) plane was shot down over the USSR. The "U-2 Incident" moved the world. The Soviet President, Nikita Khrushchev, seized the opportunity to thwart the Paris Summit thus extinguishing the discussion of the "Germany Question" (May 16, 1960.) Further, the planned Moscow visit of US-President Eisenhower was canceled. The young pilot, Francis Gary Powers found himself at the center of the Cold War crisis. Having survived unharmed from the parachute landing, Powers was arrested, tried and sentenced to ten years custody by the Soviets. On the frosty winter morning of February 10, 1962, Powers was exchanged, unexpectedly, for the high-carat agent Rudolph Iwanowitsch Abel on the Glienicke Bridge (Brücke der Einheit).

In 1996 the son of the pilot, Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welsh founded the Cold War Museum. The Museum endeavors to collect, preserve and research the history of the Cold War. For further information, visit the home page [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org).

For the past five years, I have been the Cold War Museum's official German Representative. In September 2005, the founder of the Museum, Francis Gary Powers, Jr, visited the Memorial Site Bunker Harnepop. It was there that the initial discussions were made for the collaboration of the two organizations, the Cold War Museum and the Harnepop Atomic Bunker Monument. On the 6th of February 2006 a decision was made by Mr Mehland, the chairman of the non-profit association and I, as Representative of the Cold War Museum - Berlin, for the construction of a permanent Cold War Museum exhibition in the rooms of the Memorial Site Bunker Harnepop. Together we want to examine the Cold War process in Germany on both sides of the "Iron Curtain". The Cold War Museum - Berlin together with the will offer students and interested visitors tours, seminars and various exhibitions. The symbolic foundation stone for the Cold War Information Center was placed on November 4, 2006.

### **2007**

I am pleased to announce that Gail Halvorsen USAF Col. Ret, the famous Berlin Airlift Pilot, has agreed to serve on the Museum as Patron and Advisor. It is really for the Berlin Chapter a great honor and a step forward.

**The first part of the exhibition is present at Memorial Site Harnepop, since June 2007.**  
The U-2 incident & history.

### **2008**

The Cold War Museum - Berlin and the British Berlin Airlift Association have presented in Harnepop / Germany and in Peterborough / England summer 2008

#### **The Berlin Airlift**

The special exhibition are presenting by The Cold War Museum Berlin in cooperation with the British Berlin Airlift Association May / June 2008. This exhibition is dedicate to the 60th anniversary of **"The First Battle of the Cold War"**

### **2009**

I am pleased to announce that the Commune Oder-Welse and the Commune Barnim-Oderland in cooperation with The Cold War Museum- Berlin and the Association Monument Bunker Harnepop e.V. took place:

**On 1st of May 2009** a SA-2 missile at the Memorial site Bunker Harnekop, corresponds with the 49th anniversary of the shoot down of Francis Gary Powers and the U-2 Incident. The missile is a permanent artifact of the missile museum in Pinnow and the Commune Oder-Welse.

**2009 marked the 60th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift**, I had the privilege of delivering three talks, with Power Point presentation about the Berlin Airlift in the USA, at Nicholls State University, Louisiana, at the EAA Air show, Oshkosh, Wisconsin and at the Rotary Club, Des Plaines, Illinois.

**On the 20th of May 2009** we had a special event and opened a small Airlift exhibition at Kettering Library, Northamptonshire. The exhibition was on display from the 20th May of until the 30th of June.

We have one hundred photos showing the daily contribution of the Western Allies during the Airlift.

We returned to the United Kingdom on September 24, 2009. The Secretary of State has invited us to the Commemoration of the End of the Berlin Airlift Operation which will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire on 26th September.

The Airlift Exhibition was presented at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford from 24th Sept. to 27th Sept. Best Western Tillington Hall Hotel, Eccleshall Road, Stafford, Staffordshire ST16 1JJ.

On Friday September 25 a conference was held at the Tillington Hall Hotel for High School students from the Staffordshire area to inform them about the Berlin Airlift, fifty students together with their teachers attended. The mobile Berlin Airlift Exhibition was also exhibited at the conference

On 17<sup>th</sup> of November to 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, we are returning to the United Kingdom because the mobile Berlin Airlift Exhibition created by the Cold War Museum - Berlin was also present at:

**“The Cold War its Legacy” Conference at Churchill College, Cambridge”.**

**Dec. 2009** I am very pleased to announce that the Cold War Museum - Berlin has received for the new project 2010, “Als Alles begann – Die Berliner Mauer.”, a federal-grant. The supporter is the “Stiftung Aufarbeitung der SED Diktatur” (a government-funded organization devoted to the examination and reappraisal of the Communist dictatorship in East Germany

<http://www.stiftung-aufarbeitung.de>).

**2010**

**February** Geschichtsmesse in Suhl –History Convention in Suhl, presenting the new project.

**March** European Union Educational Program High School: Cold War of both Sides of the Wall – High School Neutrebbin / Brandenburg.

March 23, 2010 Lectures High School Neutrebbin,

**April**

April 15, 2010 Tour “The Cold War Museum - Berlin and Bunker Harnekop and Q&A.

**May**

2010 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U-2 incident. A new Exhibition in Cooperation of the Luftfahrtmuseum Finowfurt former Soviet Airfield takes place at May 1, 2010, at Luftfahrtmuseum Finowfurt.

**June** The Cold War Museum Berlin hosts high school students from USA; Poland and Germany in Harnekop.

### **Three nations united – touching history**

#### **20 years after peaceful revolution and the collapsing of the Iron Curtain.**

Als alles began – Die Berliner Mauer (The development of the Berlin Wall)

The photo exhibition shows with more than 100 photos (taken by Herbert Maschke) who was a Berlin Photographer and USN Commander ret. John A. Fahey, Maryland; USA.. However, the Berlin border photos were never publishing before. In addition presenting life experience and documents of the Western Allies and Military orders of the NVA (National People Army)

We get the right to exhibit the copyrights by C: Maschke and M. Tumler

The exhibition took place on 12 June 2010 at Harnekop Memorial Site.

### **August “Good Will Tour in the United States of America”:**

#### **Charlestown retirement Community, Maryland**

On Wednesday, August 11, interview by local newspaper and by local TV Channel.

Organized and arranged by John A. Fahey

#### **Lake of the Woods Veterans Club, Locust Grove, Virginia.**

On Thursday, August 12, at 4 pm in the Clubhouse Lower Level: Guest Speakers will be Baerbel and Horst Simon, organizers of The Cold War Museum in Berlin, Germany. Their presentation will detail the Museum's exhibition on the Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949; erection of the Berlin Wall on August 13th, 1961; and 1960's U-2 incident over Russia.

It's appropriate that the day after their LOW Vet presentation, August 13, marks the 49th Anniversary of the erection of the Berlin Wall.

Organized and arranged by Donna and Lincoln Landis, Ed Kessler – President of LOW Vets.

#### **The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.**

On Sunday, August 22, at 9 am, Roe Avenue, Leawood, KS: Guest Speakers will be Baerbel and Horst Simon, organizers of The Cold War Museum in Berlin, Germany. Their presentation: The divided City - Berlin.

Organized and arranged by: Pat and Ed Robertson

#### **WWII Living History Series to Focus on Berlin Airlift**

On Monday, Aug. 23, at 7 pm, at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, Mo.: Guest speakers Mrs. Baerbel Elisabeth Simon, executive director of the Cold War Museum - Berlin, Germany, and her husband Horst Simon will present a program on the Berlin Airlift as part of the World War II Living History.

Organized and arranged by Pat and Ed Robertson, Gary Swanson - Program chairman, World War II Living History.

#### **Gretna High School**

On Wednesday, August 24, at 9 am to 3pm, history lectures to the high school students. Power Point Presentation and talks by Baerbel & Horst Simon: The Cold War in Berlin and Germany

Gretna High School is located in the center of the Midwest of the United States and just ten miles from the city limits of Omaha is the small community of Gretna, Nebraska. The village of Gretna created its first school district in 1888. Currently there are three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The high school has a students population of about 720 students. We are a four year college preparatory high school with a graduation rate nearing 100%. Though the German language program is small, it is active in providing

students with an international perspective Organized and arranged by Ms. Kellye Deane and colleagues.

### **October 2010**

The second student conference took place at the Memorial Site Bunker at Harnekop on the 8th of October 2010, hosted by the Association Atombunker Harnekop and the Cold War Museum in Berlin.

Guests came from two high schools in Neutreppin and Seelow in the province of Brandenburg, Germany. Additionally, students attended from two high schools in Bogdaniec and Cedynia located in Poland.

We shared a wonderful "Golden October Day". Our goal was to present the history of the Cold War in Germany as well as celebrating the service and friendship between the three Western Allies which enabled the Berliners to be very successful. Ninth-grade students were most impressed and were able to informally learn as well as understand The Berlin Airlift and the erection of the Berlin Wall which divided the nation for forty-five years..

In cooperation with teachers from Neutreppin and Seelow we have begun building an internet portal between high schools in the USA. This shall be a new "bridge of friendship" between youth in the USA and in Germany. "Tell me about your country" has become the theme between the high schools of Neutrebbin and Seelow and The Cold War Museum in Berlin. Our goal is to join British Schools at the program as soon as possible.

With joy the partnership between Poland and Germany shall continue to grow.

### **2011 The Allied Military Liaison Missions (The MLM's in Focus of the State Security of the GDR)**

The background of the work during the Cold War and the role of the Staatsicherheit (Stasi)

The exhibition will present with photos and documents the background of the Military Liaison Mission.

The Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR accepted and confirmed my researching application in September 2009.

I have started the deeply researching at Stasi Record Department.

Please help spread the word about the Berlin Branch. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions, want additional information, please visit the German Homepage: [www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter/](http://www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter/) or give me a call : 030.745.1980