

## Newsletter of the Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter May 2007

By Baerbel E. Simon –German Affairs-

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cold War Museum,

I am glad to offer the following report on the activities and development of the Berlin Chapter of the Cold War Museum. We have had a number of interesting visits. A special event took place on March 17, 2007, when we hosted 17 members of the American Embassy in Berlin at the Harnekop Atomic Bunker memorial site. The tour through the bunker labyrinth was fascinating for our guests, and I was delighted to present our plans for Harnekop. We are already looking forward to the next group's visit in the middle of May



On Monday, March 19, 2007, the following article appeared in the Maerkisch Oderzeitung, describing the visit as an occasion for Americans and Germans from both sides to reflect on their different experiences of a shared history:

<http://www.moz.de/index.php/Moz/Article/category/Bad+Freienwalde/id/178073>

In the last week of May, we are hosting a group of American students from Rockford College in Illinois, students from Poland, and students at the Chemnitz University of Technology. After the bunker tours, they will hear a talk by contemporary witnesses and discuss the experience of the Cold War with them.

On June 30th, we will open the first phase of the Berlin Chapter's exhibition in Harnekop.

Among the guests of honor coming to Germany, I am happy to announce that the legendary Berlin Airlift pilot, Col. Gail Halvorsen, USAF (Ret.), and his wife Lorraine, as well as the founder of the Cold War Museum in Fairfax, VA, Francis Gary Powers, Jr., will be present at the opening ceremonies. The American Embassy will send a representative. Members of the Strausberg Bundeswehr Academy, the Fassberg training center, and the Potsdam Research Office for Military History have accepted invitations. Of course the volunteers of the Cold War Museum, our family, and our friends will also be present.

During the last three months we made valuable, new contacts with contemporary witnesses.

Dr. John A. Fahey served as a U.S. Navy Commander at the beginning of the '60s and as a liaison officer with the USMLM (US Military Liaison Mission) in Potsdam. You can read more about John Fahey in the article "Witnesses of the Cold War-- Adventures behind the Iron Curtain."

Nigel Dunkley is a Scotsman, now living in Berlin. As a historian, he leads tourists to various contemporary-historical sites in Berlin and Brandenburg. During his military career he was stationed in several parts of the world. While a young soldier in the '80s, he served as a liaison officer with the BRIXMIS (British Military Mission) in Potsdam and later as defense attaché at the British Embassy in Berlin. Mr. Dunkley will support the Berlin Chapter with his knowledge.

Mrs. Anna Edith Haase has enthusiastically pursued sponsorship for the Berlin Chapter. Mrs. Haase is a contemporary witness; although she had applied for an exit visa from the GDR, she was allowed to leave with her mother only in 1989, a short time before the Berlin Wall fell.

These contemporary witnesses have a special value for the Cold War Museum.

**Arrested in Hohenschoenhausen:**

A new information center in the Hohenschoenhausen memorial site was opened on March 28, 2007. The welcoming speech by Dr. Knabe, director of the memorial site, was followed by a discussion with arrestees who were incarcerated there in 1962 and in the 1980s. The display includes objects from daily prison life in the GDR and personal items that were not allowed. The information centre is to be expanded and completed by 2011. At the memorial site, the injustice of the GDR will be reflected in tours guided by contemporary witnesses.

More information (in both German and English) can be found at [www.stiftung-hsh.de](http://www.stiftung-hsh.de)

### Witnesses of the Cold War

#### Report of a Cold War Warrior, behind the "Iron Curtain"

By John A. Fahey /Baerbel Simon Berlin Chapter / German Affairs

Commander John Fahey retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service. Due to his extraordinary foreign language skills, he has helped the White House on several occasions, for example, in arranging Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States in September 1959.

From May 1960 until June 1962, Fahey served as a Liaison Officer with the Soviet Army in



Germany. His accreditation to the U.S. Military Liaison Mission in Potsdam (GDR) gave him a "license to spy." The unarmed team were given dangerous assignments on their way between Potsdam and West Berlin, via the Glienicker Bridge. Whereas the Headquarters of the three Western Allies were in West Berlin, the US Military Liaison Mission's office was in Neu Fahrland, Am Lehnitzsee 8/9 (GDR). They engaged in daily reconnaissance of Soviet forces in East Germany. Likewise, the Soviet Mission (SOXMIS/SMLM)

operated out of Frankfurt am Main (as a counterpart of USMLM), Kassel (as a counterpart of BRIXMIS) and Baden-Baden (as a counterpart of FMLM).

John Fahey came to the post with excellent qualifications, which in fact exceeded those of others stationed there. He graduated with Bachelors in Military Science from the University of Maryland, an M.Ed. from the University of William and Mary and in addition, he successfully completed several courses at the US Naval Intelligence School. Most importantly, he could read, write, and speak Russian fluently and enough German to communicate and get around the country. While most of his colleagues spoke only a little German or a bit of Russian, he was one of two USMLM officers who could interpret at high level meetings and translate Russian. In his book "Licensed To Spy" John Fahey recounts his mission in East Germany at an intense phase of the Cold War, during the Berlin Crises of 1958-1963 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. "Licensed to Spy" is an excellent publication by a contemporary witness which is of interest not only to historians.

At the end of his active duty in the navy, his title changed from Commander Fahey to Associate Prof. Fahey. Up until his retirement in 1988, he taught foreign languages and literature at Old Dominion University in the state of Virginia. Professor Fahey has led more than ten study tours to the USSR. He has served as a President of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia and President of the Virginia chapter of the Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. He has received several distinctions for his excellent work. John Fahey is the author of five books and has written many articles published in The Russian Review, The Russian Language, U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, Officer Review, and The Torch, among others. He lives with his wife Barbara in Virginia, USA.

More information can be found at [www.johnfahey.net](http://www.johnfahey.net) .

I am grateful to John Fahey for his support of the Berlin Chapter and appreciate his cooperation.

## The erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961: how it began

By Bärbel Simon Berlin Chapter/German Affairs-

The Berlin Chapter of the Cold War Museum is pleased to announce a special success. In 2009, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of fall of the Berlin Wall, a major photo exhibition will recall the start of the Wall's erection. Through the intercession of an acquaintance, we made contact with the Tumler/Maschke family, which is processing the photo archives of their late father, who died in 2005.

Herbert Maschke was born in 1915 in Jarotschin in the province of Posen and started his career as a photo reporter with the Wilhelm Gottlieb Korn press in Breslau. After work- and military service, he completed the main course in photography at the technical college for optics and photo technology in 1944. After that, he worked as a staff photographer for the Tobis and the Phoenix Film Companies.



Brandenburger Tor 13. August 1961

Foto: Herbert Maschke

In 1952, he fled with his family to West Berlin, working there as a free-lance photographer. In 1954, he founded a printing company for postcards, calendar, and slide series, which he operated until 1972. The photographs which reflect the situation here in Berlin date from this period, e.g. those of Bernauer Strasse, the Brandenburg Gate, and Checkpoint Charlie. It is a large stock of several hundred photos which were never shown and are now being reprocessed.

We cordially thank Mrs. Tumler and Mr. Maschke for their confidence.

Please help spread the word about the Berlin Chapter. Together we can make this vision a reality. If you should have any questions or 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

Thank you for your support

Baerbel E. Simon

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