



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

February 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

Christmas in Berlin 1968



Ruth Donnocker TAR FAC '66-'68
Photo 1968

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Christmas in Berlin 2008



Walk the Wall Challenge

As a result of the Challenge we issued in our July 2008 Newsletter to walk, run, bike or swim the length of the Berlin Wall, ie: 96 miles, from August 13th (the day the Wall went up) to November 9th (the day the Wall came down) we received the following pics and snippets:



Here's '83 Class Contact Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe at the State Capital in Austin, TX, wearing her 2001 Asheville shirt.

Berlin Brats Association's Berlin Wall Walk



We tried to get a good shot of F-16s in the background with me walking with my cane, but the F-16s are too far in the distance for a good photo. So, and what I think is far better, is Norma took a photo of me in front of an American Lockheed F-104 G Star Fighter, on permanent display at Luke AFB. What makes it so important is F-104 G's were used by the German Air Force to train its fighter pilots from October 1964 to November 1983, when the Berlin Wall was up and the Berlin American High School was operating. Hope you like these photos because we enjoyed walking in memory of the German Wall and Berlin American High School.

We have finished our Berlin Wall Walk, and other exercise activities that go along with it. What do you want us to do now?
Berlin Brat admirers & friends.....
.....Tom & Norma



This photo of Norma shows her walking in the Luke AFB Commissary. She is about at isle 12, half way through her long walk of 25 long isles to her right.

Thanks for including us.
Love.....Tom & Norma

*Dr. Tom Drysdale and wife Norma
Founder and President Emeritus of AOSHS*



Joe Condrill, President of Overseas Brats, competed in the Walk the Wall Challenge.....and walked to.... our Berlin Wall at the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita, KS.



Other Brats participating: Mike Ritter '73 from K-town along with his wife and friend. Mike is the author of: The Brat Chronicles: Stories from the Demilitarized Zone.



Honorable mention:

I wish I could send you a photo of someone doing the Walk the Wall Challenge, but I can't.

This is a picture of our reunion planning committee wearing the official reunion T-shirts. We have two versions - one with the dates 1959 and 2009, and one without the dates. That way, everyone will have a souvenir, regardless of what class they were in.

Jim Selander, Frankfurt Class of '59 lives in Phoenix



"British" Army Brat: Chris Hasenbien, a fan of the Berlin Brats eagerly participated in our Walk the Wall Challenge. Here she is at the Cave Creek Recreation Park, in Cave Creek, AZ. (a bedroom community of Phoenix).



Yvonne Jorgensen (spouse of Nurnberg Alumni Association founder TD Jorgensen)

Taken at Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta, GA & the skyline of Atlanta.

She's walking over her "Olympic Brick"

I Walked the Wall along THEE Wall!

I began walking the Wall at Brandenburger Tor.
It's a very pretty day here in Berlin.

On Tuesday I had lunch with
Alex, Don Reed, Katrin and Indu Kumar.

It was a great time together at
an Italian restaurant in Dahlemdorf.



Berlin Teachers meet in Dahlemdorf for Lunch

Don Reed TAR '64-'92,

Katrin (Hotzel) Straetz TAR & BAHS '70-'71,

Alexander Longoluis '61-'67,

Jan (Johnson) Carmean TAR '66-'67

and Indu Sampath Kumar TAR '67-'69



Robert Brodowski, an exchange student son from 2002-2003. His Berlin home is Spandau and he's now studying law at the University in Passau.

Note: See the new embassy in the background. There is NO getting into the new Embassy whatsoever! ...Unless you might be a high govt official. All business that peons might need to do is still done out on Clayallee. I asked the guard about a pic of the Rosenthal Eagle (commissioned piece in the lobby of the Embassy featured in a previous Newsletter) and he said they don't even have a pamphlet. Well Shute!!!

Jan (Johnson) Carmean Fac TAR '66-'67



Don Reed, age 73, lives 5 mo. in Berlin, 7 mo. in FL. He rode his bike 15 mins. to meet us in Dahlemdorf. Indu lives in Berlin, spends a couple of winter months in India. Her daughter is a doctor in Brunshwag. Alex is still involved in many civic and political activities. Katrin, now retired, is keeping up house and garden. She lives a couple of hours from Berlin and took the train down so we could meet.



This photo above was taken in the heart of Mitte. We were walking Friedrichstrasse to Brandenburger Tor and when I saw the Bear, I was sure that was a Kodak moment!! We had walked around the big POSH French dept store on Friedrichstrasse. Whatta place that is! Maybe on the scale of Harrods.

I have had much fun with my Berlin sons and their families and my friends of days at TAR. I'm so very lucky!

On pages 6 and 7 check out the:
"WALK THE WALL CHALLENGE FROM 1963"
that our scouts from Troop 46 accomplished
in the dead of winter in Berlin.

Boise so wanted our Reunion business.....This city just goes ALL out.

Kerrylyn, the gal that workd with Jeri at the "Boise Visitors and Convention Bureau" (BCVB) has turned into a good friend of the Berlin Brats. Overseas Brats (OSB) love her so much they made her an Honorary Brat!!! Anyway.....Jeri asked her (personally) if she would like to participate in our Walk the Wall Challenge.....and she shot back heck YES! Then got her whole office involved.

Here's a little picture (or 2-3) (Kerr is the 2nd from right in this 1st photo) to show our support of your Alumni's effort in walking the 96 miles of the Berlin Wall!

Hope it makes you smile!

Kerrylyn Miller

Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau Walks to support the Berlin Brats!



Kerrylyn Miller
Sales Manager
Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.boise.org

Teddy Roosevelt and My Tired Feet

Perhaps my most interesting scout adventure in Berlin began with Teddy Roosevelt and ended with very tired feet!

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy apparently found out that President Teddy Roosevelt, a fitness buff in his own right, had challenged the Marines to hike 50 miles in under 20 hours to prove their fitness. Kennedy used this historical challenge to try to motivate a fitness resurgence in the US. Soon “Kennedy 50 Mile Hikes” were a craze across the county (and still are – see [HYPERLINK http://www.jfk50mile.org/](http://www.jfk50mile.org/)). They became the equivalent of the Volksmarch and were publicized in all the leading news magazines and newspapers.

In the early 60’s, in Berlin, most of our news was from the Stars and Stripes newspaper or the Paris edition of TIME, as well as mail deliveries of LIFE and other periodicals. I remember reading with interest about this latest American fad.

On Friday 15, 1963 the Berlin Brigade newspaper had an article about an Army officer and several of his sergeants who were going to do the first Kennedy 50 Mile Hike in Berlin. This particular officer had done some work with Troop 46 and so the story caught my eye as well as that of several other scouts. Then on Saturday, February 16, we went swimming with the British scouts at their indoor pool (it was February in Berlin after all). On the ride back someone – and I really have no idea who- came up with the idea that we should do the Kennedy 50 Mile Hike.



We quickly agreed that there was no time to waste since we wanted to try to best the time of the soldiers. Accordingly, we decided to do it beginning early the next morning. I don’t remember who all agreed to go on Saturday night but at 4 a.m. on Sunday, February 17, 1963 only four scouts showed up at the agreed upon start point in front of Berlin Brigade HQ on Clayalle. They were Ron Bolin ‘64, Tom Post ‘64, Dave Prieto ‘64 and I – see the first photo.

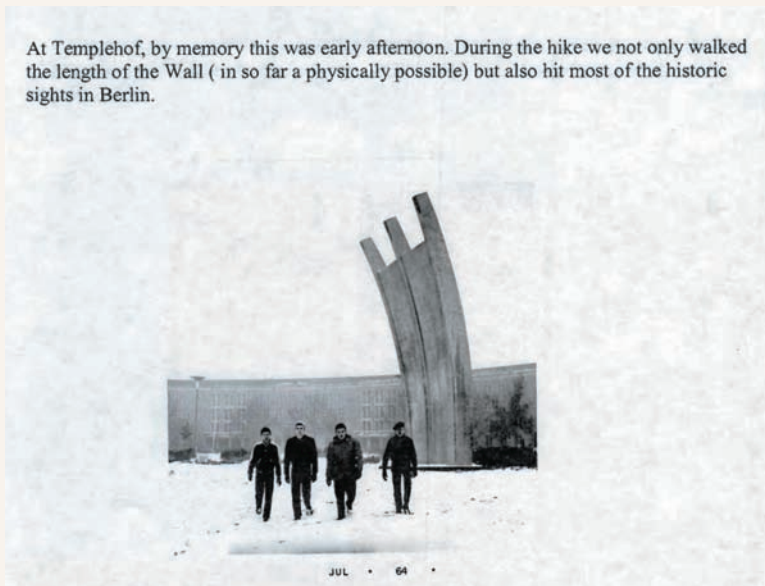
HIKING THE BERLIN WALL

We quickly plotted out our course and began hiking north towards the upper most point of West Berlin.

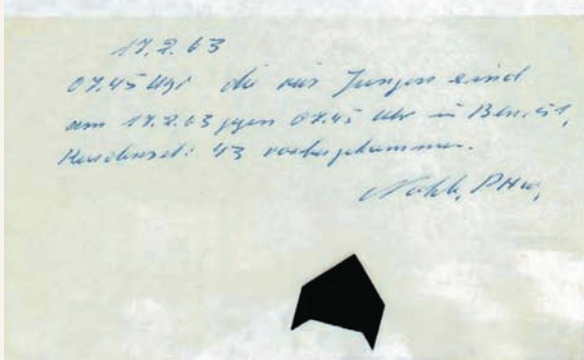
Our goal-

to hike the entire length of the Berlin Wall!

At Templehof, by memory this was early afternoon. During the hike we not only walked the length of the Wall (in so far a physically possible) but also hit most of the historic sights in Berlin.



As you can see from the attached pictures, it was snowy but not particularly cold that day. It never got sunny but the exercise kept us warm. After we reached the furthest northern point of the Wall we began to trace its path south. Along the route, we hit many of the famous sites of Berlin since to make the hike a true 50 miles we had to take a number of side trips. Thus, the Airlift Memorial pictured here.



We carefully plotted our route on city maps and to prove we had been at specific points we had people we met along the way sign and date 3x5 cards. I still have several in my scrapbook, like the one to your left.

Two of the ones I still have are by Berlin police officers, one is by an English soldier providing security for the Soviet soldiers at the Russian War Memorial and one is on the letterhead of Congresshalle. I wonder if any of the other hikers still have any of their share of the cards that we collected?

Somehow I'd forgotten to tell my parents of what we planned so when they got up on Sunday morning – several hours after we'd rendezvoused and left on our hike – they found a note from me and the remains of packages of crackers that I'd taken for "trail" rations. What the other guys told their parents I never knew.

We continued to hike throughout the day; taking some short rest breaks and buying some wurst and brotchen to supplement the crackers and other snacks we'd brought with us. Again-and-again we carefully measured how far we'd come and, possibly more important, how far we still had to go. All this while I, at least, was dreaming of the heroes welcome we'd get when we arrived back at Berlin HQ having shown how fit America's youth truly were.

Shortly after dark we arrived at the US Army train station having done over 40 miles by that time (remember in February it gets dark early in Berlin). We called our parents and they soon arrived with food, dry socks and a few comments about how nice it might have been if we'd told them what we were going to do before we tried it.

Despite offers to drive us home we were determined to finish the 50 miles and started out again to cover the last 10. By this time we'd been hiking about 12 hours, it was dark and perhaps more problematic – we were running out of places to hike!. So for the last 10 miles we cut back-and-forth across the American sector of Berlin, too tired to be bored.

Finally, about 8 p.m. we saw the gates of the US Headquarters on Clayalle, our starting point. In a little over 14 hours, we'd hiked 50 miles including most of the Berlin Wall, or at least those parts that were accessible. When we arrived at the gate, expecting perhaps the Commanding General to welcome us there was no one except the gate guard. No band, no ceremony and not even our families.

From that point, I had to hike about one-half mile home. So with the hike to-and-from the starting point I actually hiked 51 miles.

If you remember early in my tale I'd mentioned the soldiers that were going to do the first Kennedy 50 Mile Hike. My father later told me that one reason we never gained any recognition was that the soldiers had never completed the hike. In good will, the Berliners had showered them with food, beer and schnapps so they had become too "full" to finish. We'd apparently not only bested their effort but also managed to be a bit of an embarrassment in the process.

The next day we were back in school; my only reward was being excused from PE because my legs and feet were sore. Fifty Mile Hikes are a standard part of today's Scouting program but I suspect we took one of the more unusual ones – and didn't even get a patch to show for it!

To learn more about the Kennedy 50 Mile Hikes you can visit

HYPERLINK "<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/JFK+in+History/The+Federal+Government+Takes+on+Physical+Fitness+Page+2.htm>"

Jim Polley '64
Troop 46/Explorer Post 46
1959-1963

Angela (Ott) Lamb '80 Walks 60 mile Breast Cancer 3-Day.

Angela didn't exactly "Walk the Wall" but perhaps made an even more important walk, The 3-Day in support of Breast Cancer Research. Her 3-Day Walk took place in Phoenix.

Here's Angela's account: "It was an incredible 60-mile journey and I have so many wonderful memories. The weather was beautiful compared to what I came back to in Georgia. During the days it was in the high 80's and the nights only got down to the low 50's. It was perfect weather for camping out. The community participation was amazing, there were so many people in the streets to cheer us on. School children were lined up by all the schools we passed to hand out bottles of water and snacks. One person also handed out ice cold wash cloths! Because of my donors, I raised \$1477 to help end breast cancer. I have already signed up for next year's walk."

For more information about the 3-Day and Susan G. Komen for the Cure, visit www.The3Day.org.

Thank you for making this possible.
Maybe next year, you can all join me!

Love,
Angela

Click here to visit my personal page.

http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/Walk/ArizonaEvent?px=1129164&pg=personal&fr_id=1180&et=YN5Lbnm7uKpdmTVdmaHeBw..&s_tafId=5772



BOOK ON BERLIN WALL SECTIONS

The Museum of World Treasures in Wichita has recently been contacted by a German publisher who is compiling a book on the whereabouts of ALL sections of the Wall, where they have gone, and how they came to be in the location they are in now.

Permission is being requested to document the section of the Wall, we, the Berlin Brats purchased and transported to Wichita. We in turn, donated the section to the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS), headquartered in Wichita, KS, who then "loaned" the section to The Museum of World Treasures, also in Wichita.

At this writing, AOSHS, has given their permission.

Stay tuned to this Newsletter for information on when this Book will be published.



THE REUNIONS

Once a year, here we come once more together,
It never depends upon the weather...
We gather with joy and tell lies and such..
Doesn't hurt anyone, well, not much.

We come from the East; we come from the west,
We travel our own way, which ever is best.
We come from the South we come from the North.
We come from the MidWest and Southwest of course!

We tell the same stories, they may change a bit
But no one minds "cause we never remember it!"
Old class and school mates best of friends
The comradeship and caring never ends.

So here's to the Reunions, we've had, and we will,
Tho' we lose some of our members and we will,
But we will all keep meeting, a bit demanding,
But we will keep it up "til the last "mate"
is standing!"

Sent in by: Daniel Bunting
Class of '49

Berlin Brats Regional at the OSB Gathering November 2008



F to R: Jeri '72, Billy Jordan '76, Pam (Thurston) Moratzka '79, Marvin Lindroth '75, Tina (Burhan) Saltsman '79 aka: "Flat Tina" ~ you know what this means if you were at the '06 Reunion in Berlin, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72.



Charlie's Angels: Marianna (Lieurance) Mounsey '50, Billy Jordan '76, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, Larry Speer '83, & Jeri '72.



Billy Jordan '76 entering.....



OSB Brats buy the guy a Beer! What's that on top of those bottles???



Girls just flocked to a guy in uniform!
Deb Winchester, Yamato Brat, Larry and Jeri.



Saturday Night was the Inaugural Ball at the OSB Gathering. Larry was asked to perform during the Military portion..... his winning number from USAFE Idol ~ Neil Diamond's Coming to America.

Our Website was Featured in the AOSHS Quarterly

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

1946-1994



Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41630 N. Rolling Green Way
Anthem, AZ 85086
623.764.1105 tel
623.551.1398 fax
email: WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org
web: www.BerlinBrats.org

CLICK TO ENTER

The Berlin Brats Alumni Organization

is one of the great supporters of AOSHS. Here's an idea of what you find when you search on Berlin Brats in your web browser. Take a look and enjoy.

(www.berlinbrats.org)

We may continue to give you a look into other alumni associations in future Quarterlies.

On 14 October 1946, the original Student Body assembled and Thomas A. Roberts School of BERLIN opened its doors to American Dependents pupils and children of the Allied Military Missions. From a low of thirty-three, the school grew to around eighty students by the end of the year.

On 4 May 1946, Dependents School Division (DSD) was formally established.

Its purpose was two-fold:

- 1) to organize and maintain schools on both the elementary and secondary levels in military communities in Germany, and
- (2) to supply German educators with a model American school system in action, from which to draw inspiration for the reorganization and democratization of the German educational program.



AOSHS Quarterly

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First Woman Four Star General is a Brat!!! She grew up in Germany and Belgium and graduated from SHAPE in '69

Thirty years ago, women were integrated into the regular Army. And, this past November our Nation welcomed it's first female four-star general.

Ann Dunwoody, was promoted on November 14, 2008.

General Dunwoody comes from a family of military men dating back to the 1800's. In the audience for her promotion ceremony was her 89 year old father, a retired Brigadier General and her husband, a retired AF Colonel.

General Dunwoody is being assigned as the Commanding General of the Army Material Command at Fort Belvoir, VA.....(where she was born!)

by: Associated Press and
Army Echoes

“Silent Auction and Raffle”

to be held
at this Year's Reunion

This year the Berlin Brats Alumni Association will be hosting a “Silent Auction and Raffle Sale” for the July 9 -12, 2009 Multi-Class Reunion located in Scottsdale (Phoenix), Arizona. The Auction is to benefit “The Berlin Brat Scholarship Fund” and we need your help to make it a great success!

Here's how you can help:

To date we have over 300 donated items towards our “Raffle Drawing”.

“Three high profile items” towards our “Silent Auction”.

Currently we are looking for more Silent Auction items of \$200 or more in value to add to our collection.

Some items that have sold well at “other auctions” include: Domestic Airline Tickets or Buddy Miles, Donating the use of a Time Share Property or Unused Vacation Rental Properties for a week, German Art, or any German Collectables such as: Hummel's.

Please keep in mind the item can be donated by you, your employer, or both.

If you are able to donate any of the above items, please email Kimberly McLean-Hunt '77 (Raffle Chairwoman) a description of the donated item(s) and its estimated value to: kimhunt77@aol.com

Important Note: Please mail all donation items to:

Berlin Brats, 41630 N. Rolling Green Way – Anthem, AZ 85086

When you arrive at the hotel and collect your reunion registration package, you will then be guided towards the “Silent Auction and Raffle Ticket Tables” to place your bids. Winners of the “Silent Auction and Raffle” will be announced at the Dinner Gala on Saturday, July 11, 2009 (during dessert).

We encourage you to bring a friend or colleague and your checkbook!
□

Thank you in advance for your support of this important event, together we can make a difference!

Kimberly (McLean) Hunt, '77
Raffle Chairwoman
Berlin Brats 2009 Reunion

**BERLIN BRAT'S
1ST RAFFLE / SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

By: Kim (McLean) Hunt '77
Raffle Chair

The Berlin Brat Alumni Association wants to recognize the hardship times everyone has been experiencing this past year and to that end work hard to help promote your families educational goals.

This year at our Reunion we will conduct our first ever Silent Auction & Raffle. Rather than submitting the Raffle proceeds to our Treasury we would like to award Scholarship(s) to a college bound Berlin Brat child, grandchild or perhaps a Berlin Brat them self whom, due to today's economy, may find themselves returning to school to finish that BA.

Beginning in February, the Berlin Brat, their child, or grandchild who is attending a state or nationally accredited college or university this fall can apply for the “Berlin Brats Scholarship Program.”

*Please note: in order to receive this award the Berlin Brat must attend the upcoming Multi-Class Reunion being held July 9-12, 2009 in Scottsdale/Phoenix, AZ.

These scholarship(s) will be awarded not strictly on one's GPA, rather we would like to know the applicant's background, perhaps awards and recognitions they have received, and any extracurricular and community service activities they participate in or led. A three person panel from our Class Contacts will judge the participant's entries and make selections by August 15, 2009 to coincide with the start of the school year.

We, Berlin Brats Alumni Association, expect we will award at least three \$500 scholarships for a total of \$1500.00 to assist with college books and lodging.

APPLY TODAY:

To obtain a Berlin Brats Scholarship application, please go to our website and download the application. Once you complete the form, please mail the form along with supporting documentation by July 1, 2009 to each of the three panel members listed.

SEE YOU AT THE 2009 REUNION!

JULY 9-12, 2009

SCOTTSDALE (Phoenix), AZ

visit: www.BerlinBrats.org

1971



We left Berlin and moved to Truckee and Lake Tahoe, CA.

My senior year we moved to Carmel, California and I graduated from The Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach.

I played sports throughout high school and today still run marathons (with Margie, my wife) and am a belted Jiu Jitsu martial artist.

I have returned to Berlin 3 times over the years
Go to church each week and have fun everyday!

Congratulations!

Mike Ferriter, Class of '75

.....promoted to Major General

Mike Ferriter '75 has been promoted to Major General and is working directly for Gen Petraeus in Iraq (in the Green Zone).

Below, the Army honored Mike's achievement as Brigadier General.



Brigadier General Michael Ferriter **Commanding General, Operations** **XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg**



Brigadier General Ferriter graduated from The Citadel in 1979 and has commanded troops in both the 82nd Airborne Division and the 75th Ranger Regiment. He has served in leadership positions in Mechanized, Light, Airborne Infantry and Ranger Units. His commands include Charlie Company (ABN) 6-327 Infantry Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and then Bravo Company 2nd BN 75th Ranger Regiment. Later he commanded 2nd BN 504TH PIR and then 3rd Ranger Battalion. Additionally, he served as the Commander, 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia and Assistant Division Commander (Operations) of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His combat tours include Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and recently served as the Deputy Commanding General Multi-National Corps Iraq. Previous joint assignments include working at Joint Forces Command, first serving as the Deputy Director for Operations and Plans and then working as the Executive Assistant to the Commander USJFCOM and Supreme Allied Command – Transformation.

Brigadier General Ferriter serves as the principal advisor to the USJFCOM Commander on all military operations and global force management and deployments. As the Joint Force Provider, USJFCOM identifies conventional capabilities from the global pool of U.S. forces to meet the requirements of war fighting Combatant Commanders. He is also responsible for readiness monitoring, directing and tracking the deployment of conventional joint forces and capabilities assigned to USJFCOM. In partnership with the other Combatant Commands and Service Headquarters, USJFCOM identifies and allocates joint capabilities, units and individuals. In addition, he is responsible for joint logistics and deployment doctrine, training and education; and support of joint logistics command and control integration efforts.

In addition to his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the Citadel, Brigadier General Ferriter has earned a Masters of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and he has served as a Senior National Defense Fellow at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. His decorations include awards of a Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (2 oak leaf clusters), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service, Meritorious Service Medal (5 oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster), and Army Achievement Medal (2 oak leaf clusters). He is a master parachutist and an Army Ranger.





Here is a photo of Mike's entire family --
Included is Jessica Obermeyer Ferriter, Dan Ferriter's brand new bride!
Dan, Jessica, Paddy, Margie, Mike, Mary Whitney, Meghan

Meghan is completing her Doctorate studies in Glasgow, Scotland, in cultural anthropology.

Dan is a CPT in the Army's elite Ranger Battalion. Dan is in Afghanistan.

Paddy is a 1st LT also in the Army's elite Ranger Battalion. Paddy is also deployed, both boys also served an initial 15 month tour in Iraq during the surge.

This is my 2nd tour in Iraq- I served in the Rangers 10 years and was in 3rd Ranger battalion in Moghadishu, Somalia. (Blackhawk Down)

Mary Whit will be a signal officer in the Army.

The credit for this great family goes to Margie- awesome person and super best friend.

My surprise Birthday

Paddy had just arrived in country
and Meg, Margie and Whit
(plus Whit's boyfriend)
appear virtually in the background
screen.

Mike



Patricia Ferriter '73 is the proud sister of Mike and John Ferriter '78. John is now on the Board of Directors for William Morris Agency - he is their head of international television. Pat now resides in CA and has four children. Brianna is at HQ Coast Guard in Washington and in her 2nd year of law school at George Mason. Jonathon is back at home and looking for a job right now. Katie is in Sacramento. Just graduated from UC Santa Barbara and is working for our law firm. Rachel is a "Firstie" at West Point - branching Engineers and graduating in May.

Charles Huffer- our Math teacher (FAC '69-'87) at BAHS passed away yesterday, December 30, 2008 in Springdale, AR from Pancreatic Cancer. I had great contact with him over the year and as always- he held up in great style and form until the end.

Thank you and have a Happy New Year,
Sarah Lewkowicz '79

Charles A. Huffer of Tontitown, Arkansas died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at the age of 70, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.



He was educated in both Hazen and England schools, graduating from England High School in 1956. He attended Arkansas State College in Jonesboro on a music scholarship (1956-59) where he played solo clarinet in the college band and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. While in Jonesboro, Charles joined the Arkansas National Guard. The school year of 1959-60 was spent in Oberlin, Ohio, attending Oberlin College.

Charles then joined the U.S. Army in order to become a member of the Army Security Agency and attended the Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., receiving his diploma in German in June 1961. He was transferred to Berlin where he served in the 78th USASA Special Operations Unit. His time in the 78th in Berlin from July 22, 1961, to Aug. 3, 1963, was regarded by Charles as the finest years of his life. While serving in the 78th he attended the Berlin Freie Universitaet in the summer of 1963.

Upon completion of his duty in Berlin, Charles returned to Arkansas and attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (1963-64) and was awarded a B.A. degree in mathematics. He taught high school math in Plattsburg, Mo. (1964-65). He then returned to the University of Arkansas as a graduate assistant and obtained a M.S. in mathematics. Charles taught one year at Northwestern State College in Alva, Okla. In 1968, he returned to Berlin and obtained a math teaching position at the Berlin American High School, a U.S. Department of Defense school. While in Germany, he was accepted as a member of American Mensa Limited and retained membership for several years. Charles was primarily the principal clarinetist in both the Britzer Blas-Orchester and the Berliner Arzte Orchestra. He remained in Berlin 19 years before returning to the United States, where he settled in Northwest Arkansas.

Charles is survived by his sister, Kay Price and husband, Roger of Conway; brother Billy Huffer of Tennessee, and his long-time girlfriend, Ute Hoefig of Berlin, Germany. He leaves behind four special aunts, Lynne Toll of Tollville, Maxine Toll of Minco, Okla., Martha Huffer of Hazen and Joyce Huffer of Hot Springs, as well as many cousins, friends, and former students. The family wishes to express appreciation to Circle of Life Hospice Home in Springdale, Ark., for their care and especially to Charles' nurse, Carrie Stock. She was his shining light during the last months of his life.

Charles had a variety of interests, including reading, research, and amateur radio, where he held an Amateur Extra License (call sign NY2X). He was a member of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and was for many years State Section Director of Northwest Arkansas. Charles did extensive research on his army unit, contacting and interviewing witnesses concerning the history of the U.S. Army in Berlin. This research was carried out on behalf of the Allied Museum in Berlin. His latest research has been on the life of screen star Irene Dunne; however, death prevented him from completing this research.

I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Huffer. I have fond memories of him. He was a great and caring math teacher, a fun person, and a very good musician as well. He trusted me to take home his super expensive Buffet-Crampon clarinets to learn to play them on my own.

Diana (Green) Kempton '72

I remember Charles Huffer being extremely dry, but he must have been a decent guy, because I played a lot of chess in his 8th grade math class! Interestingly, he was also a big UFO buff, as am I, though I wasn't, back then. He is referenced in some of my UFO books, as the first person to request information from the US government on the UFO topic, citing the Freedom of Information Act. And there is an interesting exchange that he had with Bush: <http://www.rense.com/general3/disclosure.htm>.

I hope you all are well. Most of you are still in touch with me. If not, how about a quick email to bring me up to speed?

Best,
Peter Stein '80 <pstein80@msn.com>

*We are hopeful
for Peace
as a new*

*President
takes office*

The Statue of Victoria sits atop the Victory Column. (photo by Chen Wang)

President Elect Obama now President Barack Obama during the heat of the campaign made his now famous trip to Berlin on July 24, 2008 and said:
“Look to Berlin” and “Let’s tear down the Walls that separate us.”

Above is the Victory Column
(taken by a photo journalism student of John Freeman ‘71)
where the President Elect spoke to approximately 200,000 attending
the day long concerts at Tiergarten park.



BERLIN
July 24, 2008



“People of Berlin, people of the world, this is our moment. This is our time,” he declared.

“The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand,” Obama said, speaking not far from where the Berlin Wall once divided the city.

“The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes, natives and immigrants, Christians and Muslims and Jews cannot stand,” he said.

Barack Obama summoned Europeans and Americans together to “defeat terror and dry up the well of extremism that supports it” as surely as they conquered communism a generation ago.

Hearing him tell the world, “Look to Berlin” and “Let’s tear down the walls that separate us” really resonated for me -- to feel that spirit of freedom and independence, global cooperation and possibilities for the future -- that’s what Berlin is all about.

Best wishes,
-- John Freeman ‘71

Berlin Zoo Could Bid Farewell to Celebrity Polar Bear Knut

International celebrity polar bear Knut may be evicted from his current home at the Berlin Zoo, according to a multitude of media reports.

As reported by Spiegel Online International on December 3, the zoo has come under fire from fans of Knut for refusing to celebrate his second birthday on December 5 as grandly as his first, when adoring visitors watched him savor special treats and chew on a giant wooden birthday “candle.” His fans are also outraged that the zoo has not vowed to keep him in Berlin, “where many see him as a symbol as important as the Brandenburg Gate,” Spiegel Online stated. All grown up, with no place to go.

Speculation is rife that Knut will be transferred to another zoo next year because the Berlin Zoo reportedly cannot afford to build him a new enclosure now that he has reached maturity and should be given more room to roam - ideally with a mate.

But the zoo has denied that Knut would be going anywhere anytime soon.

“We have 14,000 animals here and we won’t let our zoo be reduced to just Knut,” Heiner Klös, in charge of the zoo’s bear enclosures, told Spiegel Online. “There are no plans to move him despite all the speculation. But in the long term he won’t be able to live in his current enclosure,” he added.



Next stop Sweden? Yet Knut’s owner, the Neumünster Zoo in northern Germany, has struck a decidedly different tone.

Its director Peter Drüwa told German news agency DPA on December 1: “Knut will spend Christmas in Berlin, but I’m not so sure he’ll spend Easter there.” Neumünster has rights to Knut because his father Lars originated from there, though at least one report has suggested Knut might even end up in a Swedish zoo, according to Spiegel Online.

In his heyday, when the world could not get enough of him, Knut the super-cute cub was even visited by American superstar photographer Annie Leibowitz and graced the cover of Vanity Fair magazine in both the United States and Germany.

Knut (pronounced “ke-newt”) is still a household name in Berlin and beyond, even if he is now less cute than when he first dazzled visitors on a daily basis, frolicking with his keeper and round-the-clock caretaker, Thomas Dörfflein, whose tragic sudden death in September 2008 of a heart attack at 44 produced a national outpouring of grief and sympathy in the form of cards, flowers and other tributes sent to the Berlin Zoo and placed near Knut’s enclosure.

Poster bear for climate change

“He earned the zoo around 5 million euros by attracting around 500,000 extra visitors and spawning merchandise ranging from cuddly toys to Knut-shaped marshmallows,” Spiegel Online reported. Surely that should be reason enough for the zoo to keep Knut, who has become a symbol of the city, as well as an ambassador and global “poster bear” for combating climate change given that his equally adorable yet increasingly endangered wild cousins are literally skating on thin ice as the Arctic wilderness melts away beneath their massive paws.

Large Cracks Appear in Brandenburg Gate

The cracks that appeared in the Brandenburg Gate are up to 12 inches deep and a meter long.

Germany’s most famous landmark is in dire need of repair. Large cracks have appeared on the Brandenburg Gate, causing alarm in the German capital. It is unclear why the cracks have appeared, but the foundation for the protection of historical monuments in Berlin have speculated that the restoration work carried out on it six years ago may not have been adequate. Experts have also pointed to the new underground line being built as a possible reason for the cracks. Work on the new U55 line has involved tunnelling right under the Brandenburg Gate. Furthermore, heavy equipment is often unloaded for multitude of events there, including the huge live screenings of football matches. High-decibel concerts may have also contributed to the problem.



The Brandenburg Gate is located west of the city center and is one of Germany’s top tourist spots. Completed as a city gate in 1791, it was commissioned by King Frederick William II as a symbol of peace.

Throughout history, it has served as a gateway for some of the major entrances and exits in German military history. And it even survived the heavy bombing of the city during World War II. Most significantly in modern history, the Brandenburg Gate was the site where US President Ronald Reagan delivered his famous “Tear down this wall” speech. When the Berlin Wall fell, the Brandenburg Gate – which had been sealed off in no-man’s land since 1961 – symbolized the desire to unify the city and the country.

Now the cracks are due to be repaired in 30,000 euro (\$38,500) restoration work, before millions of people gather around the gate to celebrate New Year’s. Volker Härtig, CEO of the Stiftung Denkmalschutz Berlin (foundation for the protection of historical monuments in Berlin) downplayed the fears that the gate could collapse. The cracks are “an everyday occurrence in the construction business,” he said, but warned that if new cracks appeared after the latest round of repairs, it would indicate a more serious problem.

"Berlin Update"

You wouldn't think the collapse of Lehman Brothers in the U.S. would have an impact on McNair Barracks - but the world is small. Lehman Brothers was a prime investor in the "Monroe Park" project that was turning old barracks into luxury apartments. The project ground to a full stop when Lehman went bankrupt. Now there is a new investor and the project is cranking up again.

Another part of the McNair complex (called Loftland) continues to sell its apartments, with most of the planned 110 apts. already completed and 15% already sold. Monroe Park will add another 250 apartments for sale. Already, there is a small strip shopping mall complex that is up and running. A public and private school are both planned for the area where the Starlight Club used to be. The McNair Chapel has been taken over by the Evangelical Church and is now being used for German services.

by: Steve Bowman, COL USA (Ret)
European Director for BUSMVA



Checkpoint Charlie

Former US Army Colonel Verner Pike, who used to be a commander at Checkpoint Charlie, has written a letter to the city of Berlin complaining about the fake soldiers as an "unacceptable spectacle" that is inappropriate for the location and its historical importance, the tabloid Bild newspaper reported on Tuesday.

(...some may remember meeting Col Pike's son, Damon, an '80's Stuttgart (Patch High School) grad at our Berlin Reunion in 2006).

We will air a special news clip of COL Pike on the Checkpoint Charlie showdown at the '09 Reunion.

Checkpoint Charlie was the only place in the world where the armies of the US and the Soviet Union confronted each other directly, gun barrel to gun barrel, during the Cold War. It was set up in August 1961 after construction of the Berlin Wall began, and its use as a thoroughfare was confined to Western military personnel and diplomats, certain West and East German officials and non-German citizens. Berliners with the necessary permits had to use other crossing points.

Kevin Sullivan, a tourist from Britain, said: "There are more shops here than when I last came four years ago. It was more impressive then." Another British tourist said: "The American burger bars jump out at you around here. It looks a mess."

Excerpts from a Der Spiegel article provided by John Frye, BUSMVA member

Free University of Berlin Celebrates 60 Years

Sixty years ago, on December 4, 1948, students and scholars crowded into the Titania-Palast movie theater – the largest hall available in the American sector of occupied Berlin – to celebrate the launch of the Free University of Berlin.

Founded by students and scholars in protest of ideological persecution at University of Berlin in the Soviet sector and largely funded by the United States, the Free University was unique in that it gave students an unprecedented voice in all of the administrative bodies that governed the university.



The Free University's new Philological Library was designed by Sir Norman Foster.

(© picture-alliance/dpa)



American sector Commandant Colonel Frank Howley addresses students and scholars at the Titania Palast movie theater on December 4, 1948.

(© picture-alliance/dpa)



Lights shine on Human Rights Day when hundreds of people light 10,000 candles in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin to promote the protection of human rights. At the official ceremony to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier emphasize the importance of human rights in German foreign policy.



"Valkyrie"

with Tom Cruise

Catch this newly released movie with Tom Cruise and see what you recognize of Berlin Brigade Headquarters, Andrews Caserne and Tempelhof.

Closing today at midnight a scandal!



□ Hi to America, all you Berlin Brats,

The world's oldest airport will be closed at midnight after eighty-five years. To us in Berlin, it was more than just an airport. We gratefully think of the Airlift after WW II and for forty-eight years it was also a US Air Base, which was already closed in 1993.
<http://de.youtube.com/watch?v=NETqCVkyH8M>

Best wishes,

□ Gunter Schmidt

By David Rising, Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — Tempelhof Airport has been many things to Berlin — a lifeline to German areas cut off after World War I, a center of the city's defense in World War II, and the hub of the airlift that ensured West Berlin's survival during the Cold War. But for 85 years, it has always been an airport.

That will change Thursday, when the last flights leave and Tempelhof is officially closed. The future of the 900-acre (365 hectare) site is uncertain.

Proposals have included turning the airfield and building — one of the biggest in the world, protected as a historical landmark — into a luxury spa, some condos, a museum, a park, a trade center or even the centerpiece of a new Olympic bid.

"Tempelhof is nothing more and nothing less than the cradle of aviation," said Ralf Kunkel, a spokesman for Berlin's airports.

"A very big and important chapter of European aviation is going to end."

Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit, who heads a left-wing coalition that includes ex-communists, has been trying to close Tempelhof for years despite fierce opposition from the conservative opposition and citizens' groups.

The city also plans to close its biggest airport, Tegel, and route all flights to a new hub just outside the city, which is being created by expanding the former East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport.

"The next chapter has already begun," Kunkel said. "Right now we are building a new airport for the German capital ... to be opened in 2011."

But many still question the wisdom of closing down centrally located Tempelhof, even as other cities like London have built new city airports in recent years. In an April referendum, 60.2% voted in favor of keeping the historic airport open, but only 21.7% of Berlin's 2.4 million voters turned out — below the minimum required to make the ballot valid.

Karin von Wysiecki was evacuated by the British from Tempelhof in 1948 as a six-year-old to stay with relatives in Hannover after the Soviets blockaded West Berlin. She stood in the main hall as workers geared up for Thursday's closing gala, wondering if there was really anything to celebrate. "I've been here for a long time, more than an hour, just watching and seeing my life pass before my eyes," she said.

"The past is important, but I think Tempelhof still has far more potential for the future as an airport."

Tempelhof opened as an airfield in October 1923, but had already been used for flights well before that — with French aviation pioneer Armand Zipfel making a flight from the field in 1909, followed by American aviator Orville Wright later that year. Its beginnings were humble: a makeshift runway and administration building and a pair of hangars, all made of wood. The first flights connected Berliners with East Prussia, separated from the rest of Germany after World War I.

Today's vast Tempelhof site took shape under the Nazis when Adolf Hitler decided to create an "air stadium" — not only a major European hub but a symbol of Germany's might — and transformed it into a monolith with massive stone blocks and pillars.

Starting in 1936 under the guidance of architect Ernst Sagebiel, the 3 million square foot (285,000 square meter) building, measuring 4,000 feet (1,230 meters) from one end to another, was built in only two years.

It boasted 49 buildings, 7 hangars and 9,000 offices and from the sky took the form of the then-ubiquitous Nazi eagle.

During the war, fighter planes scrambled from its runways in desperate but futile attempts to protect the capital from Allied bombers.

After the war, Tempelhof lay in the American sector of the divided city and became a major U.S. Air Force base.

When the Soviets blockaded all land and water traffic to Berlin in an attempt to squeeze the western allies out of the city in 1948, Tempelhof was central to the massive U.S.-led airlift.

In one of the most significant Cold War confrontations, the allies flew some 280,000 flights keeping the 2 million citizens of Berlin supplied with fuel and food until the Soviets backed down after 11 months.

The Air Force pulled out of Tempelhof in 1993, after German reunification, but the building still sports features from the U.S. era, including an indoor basketball court with a "Berlin Braves — USAF" logo.

In recent years, it has been home to airlines offering short-hop business flights; and the Air Service Berlin, which flies tourists on sightseeing tours 2,000 feet (600 meters) over the city in a vintage Douglas DC-3 that was used by the British RAF during the airlift.

Pilot Thomas Wolber, stepping off a plane after one of the last flights, said he was looking forward to continuing the DC-3 flights from Schoenefeld, but said nothing could replace Tempelhof.

"It's definitely the best airport I've ever been flying out of," said Wolber, whose plane will be making the final flight from Tempelhof on Thursday night. "The whole situation is very private — you're always very close with the passengers, and close to the aviation part of it, and that's going to be totally different in Schoenefeld."

Kunkel said he expects a decision sooner rather than later on the future of Tempelhof, which sits in a prime location close to the center. It will cost 9 million euros (\$11.2 million) per year just to keep the building secure and its facilities in order.

"I think it will go quickly — it is an incredibly beautiful property in the middle of the city," he said.

But for Klaus Eisermann, a ground-crew worker at Tempelhof for 45 years, it doesn't matter what it becomes if it can't remain an airport.

"I still can't make my peace with this decision — it's inexplicable," he said. "What is to come next? There's nothing to look ahead to. It's the worst case."

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THE BERLIN AIRLIFT: AN ODE TO

T'was 1948 and in Germany, the winter was cold
The Russians had blockaded, a move that was bold.
The Americans, the French, and of course the Brits,
Had met the challenge and gave Russia the fits!

Their plan was to force the Allies to retreat,
And leave Berlin City, for them to mistreat.
The roads had been closed, bridges destroyed,
Railroad tracks dismantled, and totally void.

But their move was too quick, poorly planned
For the Allies flew over with supplies to land.
They came from all over, the cargo planes.
C-47s, 54s, and all with great names
Like, "Floozie" and "Dolly", "Marilyn" and "Dames."

Shoulder to shoulder Germans and West Allies
Unloading cargo, caught the Russians by surprise.
Who would have thought former foes would share
The love for a city, for which they all care.

Day and night the airplanes would fly
Twenty four seven but spirits were high
They carried supplies, food, fuel how dandy
One pilot alone, even "bombed" candy.

The word spread so fast everyone tried
Bombing candy too, so that no child cried.
Yes food, fuel, coal, and especially salt
They'd fly in fly out, with no thought to halt.

One glorious day, in May '49 The news was here
The Russians "gave in" after almost a year.
Celebrations exploded, happiness and good cheer,
The Blockade was over, Hoorah and Hear hear!

To all who took part, or gave the ultimate price
The gratitude a hundred fold, a thousand and trice
For a City was saved and paved the way
For a United Berlin, to be realized one day

So here's to the Heroes, they know who they are
Berliners remember, they're never too far
They're always remembered with joy and love,
With praise and Thanksgiving for the gift from above.

DANIEL L. BUNTING '49
Berlin High School

"Do you know where/what this is????"



If so, be the 1st to email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

AND win a Berlin City Flag!!!!

(to be presented at the Reunion this summer)

Family members may not participate in this game.

Upcoming Events:

**The OSB regionals
have been announced for Jan/Feb of 2009:**

January 24 = Dallas-Fort Worth;
January 25 = Oklahoma City;
February 14 = Phoenix;
February 15 = LA/Southern California
February 21 = Central Texas/San Antonio
February 22 = Houston

Contact: OSB President: Joe Condrill at:
joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net for more information.

8-10 May 2009 BERLIN Brats in the South!

New Orleans, LA

Contact: Joy (Hall) Colmerauer '78

j.colmerauer@vthm.com

and Chris (Hackett) Sabine '82 for details.

9-12 July 2009 2009 BERLIN Brats Reunion

Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: www.BerlinBrats.org

**6-8 Nov 2009 New Braunfels, Texas
The WurstFest**

Contact: Roo Moran '73 for more details.

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Early 60's Site

By invitation only

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Brat Attack

A Berlin Chat Room

By Invitation Only

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