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He Did it in Texas—Can You Do it in Your State?

By Bill Edinger, BUSMVA Member

For the first time ever, effective 1 September 2019, Texas Berlin veterans can order Army of Occupation medal specialty license plates. There are no registration or specialty plate fees, though you will have to pay \$40 if you want them personalized. These plates are also available with DV for Disabled Veterans.



How and why did the Texas DMV introduce these plates and how can you order them? Here are the details.

As you may know, Texas is known for honoring its veterans. One way they do this is to offer free registration and other discounts through the DMV for a

range of service activities and qualifying commendations. Commendation plates include, for example, the Air Medal, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, even the National Defense Service Medal. Of course the Medal of Honor is included; in fact, there are only four Medals of Honor currently registered to Texas service members, two each from the Army and Navy.

There are also quite a number of unit and organizational plates, like generic U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine, as well as the

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Welcome Home 2019 Tour Report

By Tim Fitzpatrick, BUSMVA Member



The Berlin city government sponsors the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF) Welcome Home program. For 2019, the program was moved to May to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of the End of the Berlin Airlift, and nine BUSMVA members returned to Berlin. Veterans paid their way to Berlin, but CCF pays

all in-Berlin expenses to include lodging, meals and transportation. We represented a good cross-section of America, from California to North Carolina and everything in between. The Veterans service in Berlin spanned 1959-1993, greater than the life of the Berlin Wall itself. All survived the over 15,000 steps per day on most days!!!

The earliest serving veteran, Airman Gil Apaka, served from 1959 to 1961 and witnessed the wall going up. Quentin "Sam" McMichael and John Wallace served as infantrymen in 1960 and also witnessed the Wall being built. John stayed in Berlin, married a German girl and had two children in Berlin. Airman Carl Sandberg served for many years, including when Colonel Gail Halvorsen was his base commander in the late 60s and 70s. Military Policeman Glen Hartley served from '68-'71 with Duty Train and Steinstücken duty. Robert Ketchum served from '74-'75 as an infantryman and served as a Spandau guard and saw Rudolph Hess. Infantryman Tim Fitzpatrick first visited Berlin in 1970 on a high school lan-

guage trip, which convinced him to join the U.S. Army. Infantryman Mark Lehl came to Berlin on the duty train on 2 November 1989 and witnessed the fall of the wall only a week later! Military Policeman Gregg Bursey arrived to Berlin in late 1989 and witnessed the closing ceremony and removal of Checkpoint Charlie. We shared a common bond and deep emotions about service in Berlin!



Welcome Home Attendees at Cecilienhof Palace

We stayed in the Hotel Air, not far from "KeDeWe". We had a warm and gracious "Welcome Home" meeting on Friday with the CCF Executive Director and staff, followed by dinner at the Europa Center's Kartoffelkisten.

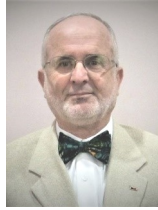
On Saturday 11 May we stopped at the Glienicke Bridge (Freedom Bridge) and toured the Russian Colony, Potsdam, Sanssouci Palace, and Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam conference at the end of World War II.

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2019 BUSMVA Board

President

Jerry Bryson
269 Club Trail
Chatsworth, GA
30705-5663
706-695-9233
jerry@jerrybryson.com



Vice-President

Rose M. Miller
11719 Meetinghouse Dr.
Cornelius, NC 28031
980-231-5479
rmiller748@aol.com



Treasurer

Richard L. Dietrich
19 Emerson Dr.
Cinnaminson, NJ
08077
856-829-7923
rldietrich@msn.com



Secretary/Editor

Allen Lawless
123 Antler Way Dr.
Sherwood, AR 72120
660-998-4590
ar_lawless@yahoo.com



Director-Sales

Chris Tureaud
310 Laurel Hill
San Marcos, TX 78666
512-757-6876
sales@berlinveterans.com



Director-Membership

Douglas Brockway
1509 Thorny
Meadow Lane
Ft. Wayne, IN 46825
260-226-1720
membership@berlinveterans.com



Director-Reunion Coordinator

Berry Williams
1117 Manchester Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-395-5085
berrywms@mindspring.com



Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of BUSMVA or its Officers and Board

President's Corner

Jerry Bryson

I have enjoyed and welcomed the notes, phone calls and emails recently. Knowing that you are thinking about our fine organization and offering your words of encouragement and suggestions demonstrates to me the pride we all share in the BUSMVA experience. Keep your cards and letters coming.

We've had several events to mention. One was our donation to The National Infantry Museum in Columbus. Our officers and directors felt that the NIM went above and beyond in assisting BUSMVA with the 2019 Reunion. A letter of appreciation accompanied with a check, representing the BUMVA active membership, was presented at a recent meeting of the NIM. Former Columbus Mayor, and BUSMVA member, Bob Poydasheff made that presentation on our behalf. We have received their acknowledging letter of thanks from BG (Ret) Peter Jones, President of the NIM Foundation.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army in Washington now has BUSMVA's involvement on the individual level. Vice President

Rose Miller has taken care of the work necessary for our members to make their donations to the Path of Remembrance. Already I see our members beginning to add their names and dollars to the cause. Check it out: <https://armyhistory.causevox.com/berlin-brigade-busmva>

Coming in on the heels of this newsletter will be our annual membership renewal campaign. We end 2019 with around 700 active members. It's a fact that we slip in numbers with each passing year. We need to keep all the current members, plus regain others who were once active but let a renewal slip by unnoticed. The 2020 membership renewal officially began at the Columbus reunion. Since then, there have been others who sent in their 2020 dues. You do not have to receive a paper notice to send your dues.

As always, any time you need or want a copy of our active members, just let Doug Brockway or me know.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your willingness to be a part of BUSMVA.

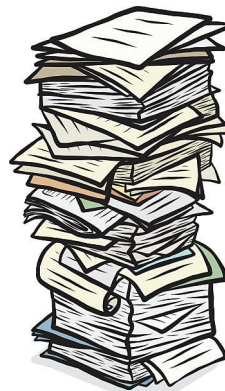
Secretary's Desk

Allen Lawless

Your Secretary has been busy over the summer. Here are some of the highlights:

Following the May 2019 BUSMVA reunion, Membership Director Berry Williams and his wife traveled to Montana for two purposes – one, to inspect the offerings in Billings, Montana prior to the September 2020 reunion there, and two, to recover BUSMVA documents and records still in the possession of the widow of the previous BUSMVA Secretary, Don "Bergie" Stanley. Berry and Charlotte packed up and shipped 11 large boxes of documents, memorabilia, and similar items. These records comprised virtually all of the documents associated with BUSMVA, including financial records, tax returns, membership records, and correspondence. I inventoried everything and then put together a plan to purge the files of those records that were past their normal disposition. Tax records, for example, are not generally

kept longer than 7 years. IRS and legal communications were retained, along with all membership records. As membership records comprised significant bulk just in terms of paper, these were



digitally scanned. Original paper records were then burned to safeguard personal information. As a result of these efforts, BUSMVA's formal and legal records and correspondence now fits in one file drawer whereas two filing cabinets were needed to store everything previously. Memorabilia has been stored and may be

made available for future silent auctions. The biggest challenge was dealing with the mountains of paper. Believe me –standing next to a burn barrel in 95 degree heat is not fun!

Some adjustments were made to the web site in recognition of Berlin-related publications that may be of interest to

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It is my pleasure and honor to serve you and bring you the following information:

• **National Museum of the U.S. Army set to open June 4, 2020**

Exciting that the museum will open at Fort Belvoir, Virginia in less than one year. Since my last dispatch, we decided to set up a fundraising page on the Museum's website to fund the Berlin Brigade Plaque to be placed along the Path of Remembrance at the entrance to the museum. I am proud to report we have to date raised 12% or \$575 towards the total cost of \$5000 for the Plaque. Thank you to our generous donors. A donation is a great idea as a memorial or gift for a comrade or loved one who served with the Berlin Brigade. You can donate online at <http://armyhistorycousevox.com/berlin-brigade-BUSMVA>.



my and the support of your families. <https://armyhistor.org>

• **Our Facebook Page**

Have you liked BUSMVA on Facebook yet? This is a forum to communicate with comrades, make new friends and share memories. Please continue to post photos and reach out seeking friends you served with. If a few of you gather to share fellowship between the time of our reunions, take a photo or two and post them on Facebook. We know not everyone can attend every reunion, so let's stay up to date and connected here. All members and their spouses are invited. Join us!



• **Welcome Home Tour 2020**

We expect to know the dates of the Welcome Home Tour in 2020 in the next few weeks. I hope all of you who have not participated in previ-

I also encourage you to consider purchasing a brick on the walkway with your name or that of a comrade or loved one. Please do take the time to register yourself, spouse, and children on the registry. Document your service and sacrifice as members of the U.S. Ar-

ous tours consider applying. See the article in this *Observer* to get an idea of what a fabulous opportunity this is. Contact Vern Pike at vernpike@nc.rr.com if you are seriously interested. Stay tuned to the Website and Facebook page for the schedule and details.

Secretary's Desk (continued)

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members and the general public alike. An additional page has been added under the "News" tab on the site. The page contains a number of publications with room for more! If you know of a book, or a movie or documentary, you can send all available information to me and I will do my best to list it on the site, with links as to how to procure the book or movie.

BUSMVA now has its own US Postal Service mailing permit. For hard copy newsletters and other documentation sent in mass mailings, BUSMVA had used the mailing permit of the printing company that was contracted to print the documents, prep them for mailing, and then to deliver them to the post office. The printing company, as a "for profit" company, could not take advantage of a non-profit status, which BUSMVA can. Mailings done by USPS for "for profit" companies charge a higher rate than for non-



profit organizations like BUSMVA. BUSMVA, as a 501 (c) (19) veterans organization and recognized by IRS as a non-profit, may take out its own mailing permit with the lower postage rates, and the application submitted to USPS was approved in July.

A different company has been selected to do the hard copy printing, prep work, and mailing of the newsletter moving forward. As a result of these changes, BUSMVA will save approximately \$2,000 in postage costs in our first year alone. All of this will be invisible to the BUSMVA member – this newsletter will be prepared and mailed/emailed just as it always has. While we're talking about the newsletter, those who have active email accounts are encouraged to request getting the newsletter via email. You'll get it faster, and it'll be in color. Hard copy newsletters, unless special arrangements are made, will be in black and white.



AOM License Plates in Texas (continued)



(Continued from page 1)

more specific 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and 173rd Airborne Brigade. Finally, there are campaign and conflict plates, like the Kosovo Campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom, Korea, and Vietnam.

Altogether, there are almost 200 military-related specialty plates offered in Texas. So in early 2018, it occurred to me, "Wouldn't it be nice to order one with the Army of Occupation (AOM) service medal to celebrate my service at the Outpost of Freedom?" The AOM service medal is one of the longest active military awards stemming from World War II and the Cold War. The AOM was awarded from 1945-1990. Beginning in 1955, only those who served 30 consecutive days in West Berlin were authorized this service medal. Quite naturally, being a recipient of the AOM was distinctive, somewhat rare, and a source of great pride for me and others.

A quick check of the DMV's specialty plates page did not show the AOM as an option, so I called their office in Austin, spoke with Margaret, and asked why. She said it was not on the list (I knew that) because it had never been authorized. OK, I said, let's get it authorized! I can provide proof that I earned it by sending a copy of my DD-214. She said, not so fast. Authorization ONLY comes from legislation that is passed by both houses of the Texas legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

Well, that was unexpected. I was wounded, but Margaret stepped in to stop the bleeding and was extraordinarily helpful. She even provided examples of similar bills that had passed in previous legislatures and answered all my questions.

As it turned out, I was experienced in the legislative process from work on annexation reform in the previous legislature, so I called my State Representative, Phil Cortez (a Democrat) and asked if he would sponsor our Army of Occupation Medal bill. He's an Air Force Reservist and was delighted to help. With the sample bill Margaret had given me, Phil's Chief of Staff had one written for the AOM and it was introduced as House Bill 408 (HB-408) on 26 November 2018.

We needed bipartisan support and a companion bill in the Senate to ensure traction. You see, the Texas legislature only meets every other year for a total of 140 days. In that short time, ALL State business, including passing a budget for the next two years, must be conducted. If we didn't have a coalition of lawmakers willing to commit even a little of their time and energy to supporting us, this would not happen. I contacted my new State Senator, Pete Flores (a Republican) to ask if he would sponsor a companion bill to HB-408 in the Senate. He said, of course!, and submitted Senate Bill 225 (SB-225) on 7 December 2018. It was identical to HB-408.

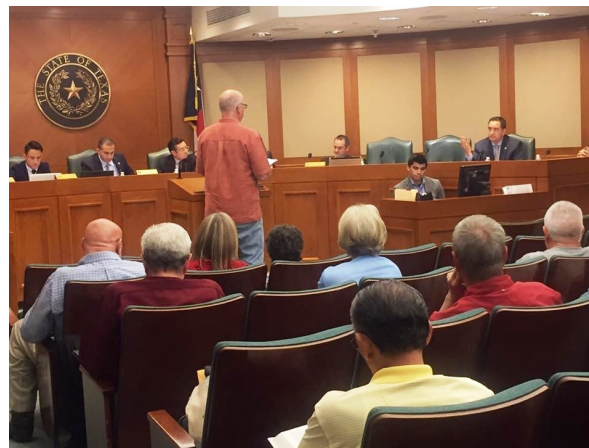
Our timing was perfect — the 140-day 86th Legislative Session was due to begin at the end of January, 2019.



L-R, Bill Edinger; Sen. Peter Flores (R-19); Aimee Morales, staff aide to Sen Flores; Mike McMullen.

With the two bills submitted, we then needed to show that there was broad interest in getting one of them passed. Either or both of them could die at any stage along the way, so maintaining the pressure was critical. The bills were referred to committees, but each committee had dozens, even hundreds of bills to consider. So, getting ours to the top required pressure.

BUSMVA Membership Director Jerry Bryson provided a list of Texas BUSMVA members and I embarked on an email and telephone campaign to get members interested and to write, call, email, and visit their respective representatives and senators in support of HB-408 and SB-225. Many of our members did just that and it worked! Additionally, one other state representative signed on to cosponsor HB-408 and both bills were ultimately scheduled for committee hearings.



Presenting bill SB-225 before the Transportation Committee

Several of us traveled to Austin to testify in person. Mike McMullen drove down from Arlington and Rick Martin and I drove up from San Antonio. We did this twice, once for each committee, and continued to monitor the bills' progress through the respective chambers. Ultimately, it was SB-225 that made it to a floor vote first. It was unanimously voted out of the Senate and sent to the House, where it was also voted out unanimously.

The Governor signed SB-225 into law on 20 May 2019 and became effective on 1 September.

Thanks go out to all those Texas BUSMVA members who took time to contact their legislators in support of these bills. Without your help, our effort might not have received enough support for the bills to make it out of committee, much less be signed by

the Governor. Special thanks to Mike McMullen and Rick Martin for their supporting testimony. They both knocked it out of the park, earning the admiration and heartfelt thanks for their service from each committee member.

Here is a link where you can order the Army of Occupation medal specialty plates.

<https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates/specialty-license-plates/item/2525-army-of-occupation-medal?ml=1>

Here is a link to show the many steps SB-225 went through on its way to becoming law.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=SB225>



Texas Rep. Phil Cortez, author and sponsor of the bill.



Welcome Home Tour 2019 (continued)



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We participated in the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and its reception at the Outpost Theater, now Allied Museum, and shook the hand of the “Candy Bomber” Colonel Gail Halvorsen who is now 98 years old. The German Minister of Defense gave a moving speech about the Allies saving Berlin and about the importance of Freedom - Freiheit! She awarded the German Gold Cross of Honor to recently retired General John W. Nicholson for his NATO service in Afghanistan, who joined the BUSMVA vets for a beer and some Soldier stories. The evening concluded with a serenade by the Luftwaffe band and troops.

On Sunday, we participated in the 70th Anniversary of the End of the Berlin Airlift ceremony at the Luftbrücke Memorial at Tempelhof. Colonel Halvorsen was the featured speaker along with senior representatives of Germany,



Col. Halvorsen

Berlin, and all participating Allied nations. A reception followed, with a greeting of Airlift veterans, other dignitaries, and ourselves by the Berlin Governing Mayor in the main Tempelhof terminal hall. An interpretive music and dance performance held at the Columbia Theater featured children from Berlin's Gail Halvorsen School and the Stiftung Luftbrückendank (Airlift Gratitude Foundation founded in 1959 by Willy Brandt). These things done in their honor had a profound effect on Airlift veterans of each nation.

Monday 13 May we toured Clay Compound and McNair Barracks. Where we once did PT, or stood formation or lined up our gear, children now play and the buildings are apartments. Our Infantry Vets, Tim, Mark, Sam, and John recounted their time here and stories of their friends in the Infantry. Andrews Barracks now houses the German National Archives. Our MPs Glenn and Gregg were able to visit their former barracks and headquarters. While an archives employee talked with us, it was fun to watch their fork lift still marked US Army!

We ate lunch at the Schöneberg city hall, made famous by President Kennedy's “Ich bin ein Berliner” speech. We visited the German Bundestag in the Reichstag. The tour revealed Soviet Red Army graffiti along with the history of the building and its restoration, and received a presentation on the workings of today's Bundestag.



With students at Berlin Kolleg

The highlight of the day was the walking tour of the new glass Reichstag dome where you can see all of Berlin. Teufelsberg still stands as a lone sentry on a hill!

That evening Tatjana Schell, the CCF Project Manager, met us for dinner near our old Duty Train Rail Transportation Office (RTO). While the RTO was torn down in 2008, the memories of everyone's duty train experience animated the conversation at a nearby Italian restaurant.

Tuesday we gave presentations to students, a very intimidating effort for most, trying to anticipate the questions from all of these youth born long after our service and after the fall of the Wall. Four of us went to talk to students at the Max-von-Laue Schule. The talks were very interactive and the four got to sample the wine making class and culinary class products. Five went to visit the Berlin Kolleg School for those completing their high school requirements. The students had many questions of our service and of the United States. They were particularly interested in documents and maps that we passed around. Our group felt that these youth, being educated in a free, democratic Germany were our legacy. The Soviets left concrete and bronze monoliths; we left Freedom.

Later we toured Tempelhof. Gil Apaka and Carl Sandberg, for whom this was home for years, really had fun informing the guides of their life at Tempelhof. We explored everything from the bunkers below decorated with images from children's stories to entertain them during WWII bombings and fighting, to the roof tops and hidden spaces.

Wednesday 12 May was somber as we toured The Berlin Wall Memorial on Bernauer Strasse. A large section of the wall system still stands. The Church of Reconciliation that stood in no man's land was dynamited in a despicable act by the communists in 1985 but stands in outline form today. For me, a very poignant moment was seeing the picture of Mariennetta Jirkowsky who was murdered attempting to cross the wall

on the night of 21-22 November 1980, the night I had staff duty at Clay HQ. You could see each of our group deep in their own thoughts about what Berlin, and the Wall, meant to us and the effect it had on our lives. We visited the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears) at the Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof, an inner-German crossing point designed for maximum psychological effect on those moving through it into or out of East Germany.

Afterwards we boarded a boat for a Spree River cruise. CCF had arranged for us to talk to two former East German border guards while on board. We heard of their experiences on the other side of the Wall. For most of us this was profoundly difficult given our memories freshly renewed moments before – memories of murder victims cut down by men just like these. It was also difficult for these men to reconcile their lives against the fall of the Wall and how they are now viewed by their fellow Germans.

To lighten the mood, CCF Executive Director Ina Frost had arranged for us to attend a live performance at the Chamäleon Theater. The show “Memories of Fools” was a wacky walk through a young man's dreams of being an astronaut performed by Cirque du Soleil type acrobats.

On Thursday, we visited the German-Russian Museum Karlshorst, which houses the room where the final surrender of Nazi Germany occurred and Marshal Zhukov had his offices. The museum is from the Soviet/Russian perspective of WWII. Following this we visited the Treptower Soviet War Memorial on an appropriately somber

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**2020 BUSMVA Reunion
Billings, Montana
September 20 – 25, 2020**

Monday evening, September 21 join us for our Welcome Reception and Dinner at the Historic Train Depot in downtown Billings. The Billings Depot was built in 1909 and played a significant role in the development of Billings and the early westward settlement of Montana. With its soaring ceilings, high arched windows, and beautiful columns, the Historic Billings Depot is a landmark gathering space. This vibrant facility has played host to presidents, dignitaries, and Hollywood celebrities.

In the June *Observer* we described our trip to the Little Big Horn Battlefield. There we will learn about the role Companies C, D, and I of the 6th U. S. Infantry Regiment had in the battle.

On Wednesday, September 23 we will travel to the Buffalo Bill Center in Cody, WY. The Center includes five museums:



- ⇒ The Buffalo Bill Museum tells the story of the legendary showman William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody. Learn all about Cody, his Wild West show, and the West he loved and experienced as a Prospector, Bullwhacker, Trapper, Pony Express rider, Buffalo hunter, Army scout, Guide, and Producer.
- ⇒ The Cody Firearms Museum tells of the history and culture of firearms from design and manufacturing innovations to the evolution of its use for hunting, protection, and sport.
- ⇒ The Draper Natural History Museum features specimens of grizzly bears, wolves, bighorn rams, moose, elk, and other wildlife. Explore interactive trails that replicate sights, sounds, and, yes, even the smells of the Greater Yellowstone region.
- ⇒ The Whitney Western Art Museum chronicles the marvelous sights of the American West.

⇒ The Plains Indian Museum shares the life stories of the Northern Plains Indian peoples through Native voices, music, and unique collections.



After our visit to the Buffalo Bill Center we will have dinner at the Irma Restaurant and Hotel. Built by Buffalo Bill in 1902, it is named for his daughter. Show try-outs for Buffalo Bill’s Wild

West Show were held in the lot west of the hotel. Following dinner we will head to the Irma’s Silver Saddle Saloon or the Irma Front Porch for a variety of local musicians performing your favorite cowboy and country tunes.

For those who like the opportunities that reunions give to visit other areas of our great, beautiful country, Billings is an excellent location. Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore, the Badlands and Blackhills, and Glacier National Park are all within reach for attendees arriving early or staying late. Charlotte and I are going early to visit Yellowstone. We will spend four days in the Park. If you plan to go to Yellowstone too, let us know as we would like to see you there. But remember to make your lodging reservation soon! We are staying 2-nights at the Old Faithful Inn and 2-nights at Canyon Lodge.





Book Review—Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War, The Berlin Wall, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth



Editor's Note: The book referenced below, scheduled to be released in November 2019, contains interviews of several BUSMVA members including Vern Pike, Adolf and Vera Knackstedt, Tom Ables, Wayne Daniels, and Allen Lawless. On that basis, this book may be a welcome addition to your library. Please also note that BUSMVA does not endorse any publication; the author's opinions are entirely his own.



Iain MacGregor

On November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall—one of the defining symbols of the Cold War—was finally breached, liberating a population and reunifying a city that had been slashed in half by its construction twenty-eight years before. Now, as we approach the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Wall, British historian Iain

MacGregor examines with remarkable insight and sensitivity how the closing of the border by the East German communist state came to define an era and a generation in CHECKPOINT CHARLIE: The Cold War, The Berlin Wall, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth (Scribner; on sale: November 5, 2019). Incorporating dozens of first-hand interviews MacGregor conducted with men and women on both sides of the divide, this groundbreaking and impeccably reported history of the Berlin Wall will shine a new light on a complex, fascinating, and strikingly relevant conflict, and the gateway at the center of it all.

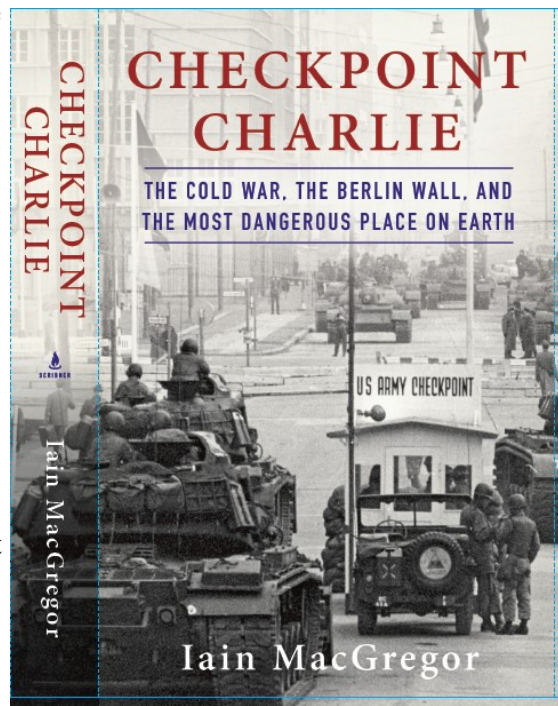
When the construction of the Berlin Wall began at midnight on August 13, 1961, movement between East and West Berlin was soon made all but impossible, with only a small number of highly-regulated official crossings remaining. Dubbed “the most dangerous place on Earth” by President John F. Kennedy, Checkpoint Charlie—the only crossing accessible to foreigners, diplomats and members of the Allied military forces—became the symbolic and practical epicenter of the Cold War, the one place in the middle of a paranoid continent where East faced West with only one hundred yards of shoot-to-kill No Man’s Land to separate them.

To explore this deeply complicated time and place, MacGregor has assembled a remarkable cast of characters who lived or worked near Checkpoint Charlie, many of whom have never been interviewed before or were previously constricted by security concerns. Now, these figures—including men who built and dismantled the Wall, children who crossed it, relatives and friends who lost loved ones trying to escape over it, military policemen and soldiers who guarded it, CIA, MI6, and Stasi operatives who oversaw operations across its borders, politicians whose ambitions shaped it, and journalists and photographers who documented it—lend their stories to this book, recreating in vivid detail the tension and uncertainty of everyday life along the Wall. Riveting, poignant, and deeply personal, CHECKPOINT CHARLIE is an essential addition to Cold War literature, and humanizes, through the first-person narratives of those who survived it, a conflict that shaped the lives of millions, from the 1950s to the present day.

As an editor and publisher of non-fiction, Iain MacGregor has over twenty-five years’ experience working with authors such as Jonathan Fenby, Simon Schama, and Max Hastings. His father served with the British Army on the Rhine in the 1950s, and enjoyed R&R in West Berlin. As a student in 1981, he visited the Baltic and the Soviet Union, avidly followed events that unfolded in Berlin on the night of November 9, 1989 when the Wall fell, and then travelled through into the former Warsaw Pact territories and Berlin, visiting Checkpoint Charlie, still untouched. He lives with his wife and two

children in London. Checkpoint Charlie is his first book to be published in the U.S.

Abigail Novak
Senior Publicist, Scribner
212-698-1296 | abigail.novak@simonandschuster.com





Welcome Home 2019 Tour Report



misty day. Although seemingly more worn, it is well maintained and full of bouquets from Russian visitors remembering their war dead. These monuments including the one near the Brandenburg gate are to be maintained in perpetuity by the treaty allowing the withdrawal of Soviet Forces and German Reunification. Then Tatjana took us on walking tour of the Clay HQ Area. We were able to enter the All Saints Chapel, still maintained as a chapel for the American expatriate community. The Berlin VFW Post 10506 "Last Outpost" hosts many events here and sponsors BSA Troop 46 that has met here since 1952. The Chapel needs a new roof and repairs and depends on donations so please look up their page and help!

We walked into the Clay HQ building, ignoring the private property signs, until stopped by a construction supervisor who graciously let us see the entrance area and talked to us about its new purpose as a private apartment and an art exhibition hall. The Truman Plaza area is now filled with high end apartments and the Clay area has been modernized as private housing. At the Allied museum the museum director opened up the last Checkpoint Charlie guard house for former MP Gregg to recount his days there as the Wall opened. You could see the young MP reliving his experiences, as well as Glenn's time at the earlier Checkpoint Charlie. Eventually the museum will be moved to Tempelhof so all of the Allied collection can be displayed. After a little creative land navigation that got us on another bus route that twisted and turned through our old Düppel Housing area, which was an unexpected bonus, we made it to the Samowar restaurant near Charlottenburg almost on time!

On our last day, we were welcomed into the Berlin House of Representatives for a tour and lunch hosted by Ralf Wieland, its President. He spoke eloquently of the meaning of the Berlin-US Relations and his own experience growing up near US bases in West Germany. After lunch several in our



With Ralf Wieland, President of the Berlin House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus)

group presented Mr. Wieland with small tokens from our home towns and had an official photo taken. We then toured the new United States Embassy built on land purchased prior to WWII, and enjoyed a round table discussion with the US Ambassador to Germany, Ambassador Grenell and his defense attaché. On the wall in his conference room hung the former Berlin Allied Staff G3 map used in coordinating Allied activity during the occupation. Ambassador Grenell spoke about our service and also about the efforts to maintain German American relations. He mentioned the move of the Allied Museum, but that the historic Outpost Theater would stay. He expressed hope that Hollywood would partner with Berlin to showcase classic American films within the Outpost.

Our farewell dinner was at Findberg's Restaurant, with the Honorable Walter Momper, the West Berlin Mayor when the Wall fell. He engaged us in great conversation about his relationship to our Berlin Com-

mand and US Soldiers, particularly in hosting a farewell ceremony when Berlin Brigade Soldiers deployed for Desert Storm and Provide Comfort II. We said farewell to our wonderful CCF partners Ina Frost, Tatjana Schell, and Claudia Eule, to whom we presented bouquets and small gifts. After a few beers back at the hotel, we

said farewell to each other and the incredible experience we had again as veterans and with Berliners.

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation also administers numerous activities to continue the US Berlin relationship with a sister city, teacher exchanges and other programs. They do accept donations to sustain the endowment they have in order to support these activities into the future. Organizations such as CCF, the Berlin Airlift Foundation, the VFW, the All Saints Chapel, BSA Troop 46, the Gail Halvorsen School, and the John F. Kennedy School continue that legacy,



Farewell dinner with Hon. Walter Momper, former Mayor of Berlin

and deserve our gratitude and support.



BUSMVA Pins, Patches, Memorabilia Store



Order Form				
	Size	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Patches	S or L (BBde only)		\$3	
Pins & unit crests	N/A		\$3 except for 6th Inf, which is \$6	
Challenge Coin	N/A		\$10	
Stickers and Decals	N/A		BBde patch—\$1.50; BUSMVA decal \$2 (circle the item you're ordering)	
License Plate Frame	N/A		\$5	
Shipping & Handling \$3 for pins, patches, misc.; \$5 for license plate frame				
Total Enclosed				

Patches—BBde, Sm & Lg; Checkpoint Charlie; Berlin Bear; 6th Inf; 2nd BG/6th; 3 BG/6th, Special Troops; Air Force



Pins & unit crests—USAF, 6th Inf, BBDE, various U.S. Army



Challenge coin, front and rear



Stickers and Decals



License Plate Frame



NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE CLOTHING ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Items to be shipped to:

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	

Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:

BUSMVA

**Mail to:
Chris Tureaud
310 Laurel Hill
San Marcos, TX 78666**

NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!



BUSMVA Merchandise Store through Mr. C's Caps



Order Form						
		Size	Qty	Total Cost		
T-shirt Ash Color (no pocket) Embroidered Checkpoint Charlie on front	S-XL	\$13.00				
	XXL	\$14.00				
	XXXL	\$17.50				
T-shirt Blue (with pocket) Embroidered Berlin Bear/BUSMVA	S-XL	\$13.00				
	XXL	\$14.00				
	XXXL	\$17.50				
Sweat Shirt Ash Color 9oz Heavyweight w/Checkpoint Charlie logo	S-XL	\$27.00				
	XXL	\$29.00				
	XXXL	\$31.00				
Sweat Shirt Same as above with Berlin Patch logo	S-XL	\$27.00				
	XXL	\$29.00				
	XXXL	\$31.00				
Official Jacket Royal Blue w/light lining; large Berlin logo on back and Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL	\$68.00				
	XXL	\$72.00				
	XXXL	\$77.00				
Golf Shirt Royal Blue with pocket; Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Ash color with pocket; Berlin Bear and BUSMVA on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Blue with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Red with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Embroidered name on shirts and jackets add for each:		\$6.00	NAME: _____			
Ball Cap with Berlin patch. <i>Blue or Red</i> (circle your choice); <i>mesh style or full cloth</i> <i>material</i> (circle your choice)	One size	\$15.00				
Ball Cap with Berlin Bear patch. <i>Blue or</i> <i>Red</i> (circle your choice); <i>mesh style or full</i> <i>cloth material</i> (circle your choice)	One size	\$15.00				
Shipping & Handling (see side bar)						
Total Enclosed						

Items to be Shipped to:	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	
NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE PATCHES, PINS, MEMORABILIA ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!	
Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:	
Mr. C's Caps 9042 Roubidoux Rd. Bucyrus, MO 65444 417-967-3257 Email: estenglehorn@gmail.com	
NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!	

Cost of Items	Shipping & Handling
\$10.01 to \$20.00	\$6
\$20.01 to \$30.00	\$8
\$30.01 to \$40.00	\$10
\$40.01 to \$50.00	\$12
\$50.01 and up	\$14

Samples!



Lined jacket



Back of jacket



Golf shirt red



Sweatshirt



Ball cap w/mesh



Golf shirt



Ball cap w/ material


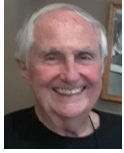


New Members to BUSMVA



Last Name	First Name	City	State	Berlin Dates	Berlin Unit
Fargo	James	Locust Grove	VA	9/64—2/66	4th Bn 18th Inf/CML Div.
Johnson	Mark H.	Davenport	IA	1975-79	C Co. 3rd Bn 6th Inf.
Kiddoo	Ronald L.	Urbana	IL	4/67—12/68	HQs, Berlin Brigade
Rusk	Jim	Green Valley	AZ	1/65—12/67	HQs, Berlin Brigade F&A Office



Taps			
Photo (if Available)	Name	Date of Death	Berlin Service and Special Note
	James Gmyrek	23 July 2019	BUSMVA Member #442, Berlin service April 1961—Sept. 1963, CSC, 3rd Battle Group, 6th Inf. James and his wife Dorothy were regular attendees at reunions and made a special effort to keep the Dancing Bear Club area neat and tidy. He did so without being asked and enjoyed being helpful to all.
	Frank Scheder	24 June 2019	BUSMVA Member #726. Berlin service Dec. 1958—Feb. 1961, HQs Co., 3rd Battle Group, 6th Inf.



The BUSMVA Observer

Berlin US Military Veterans Association
123 Antler Way Dr.
Sherwood, AR 72120

Return Service Requested

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