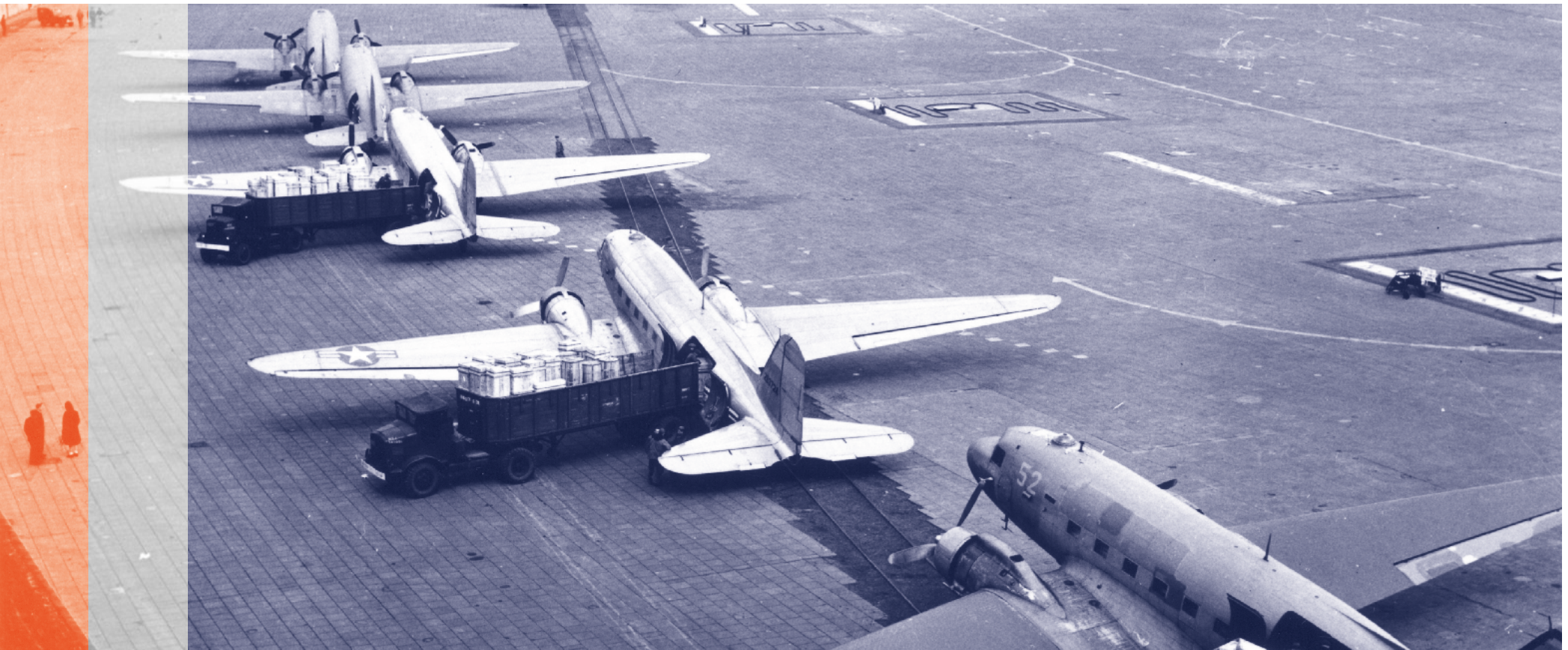


# THE BERLIN AIRLIFT 1948/49



© AlliiertenMuseum|US Air Force



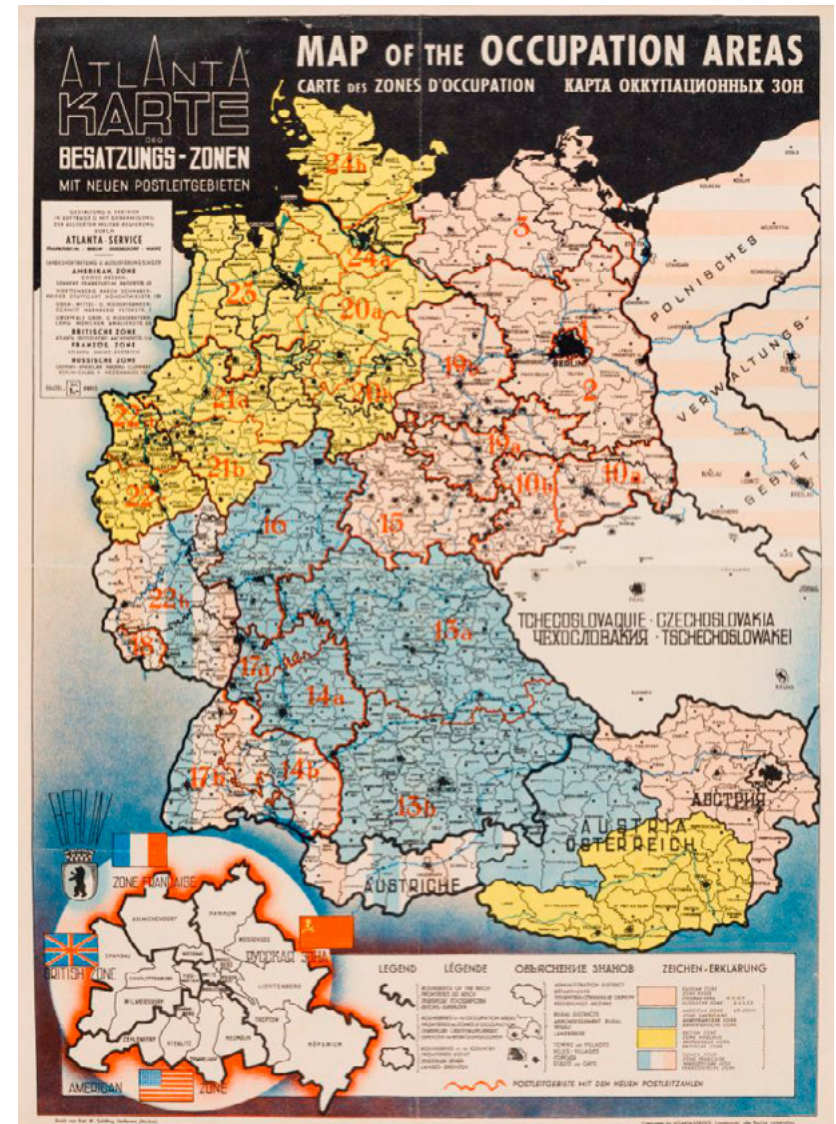


**explains**  
the history of the Berlin Airlift

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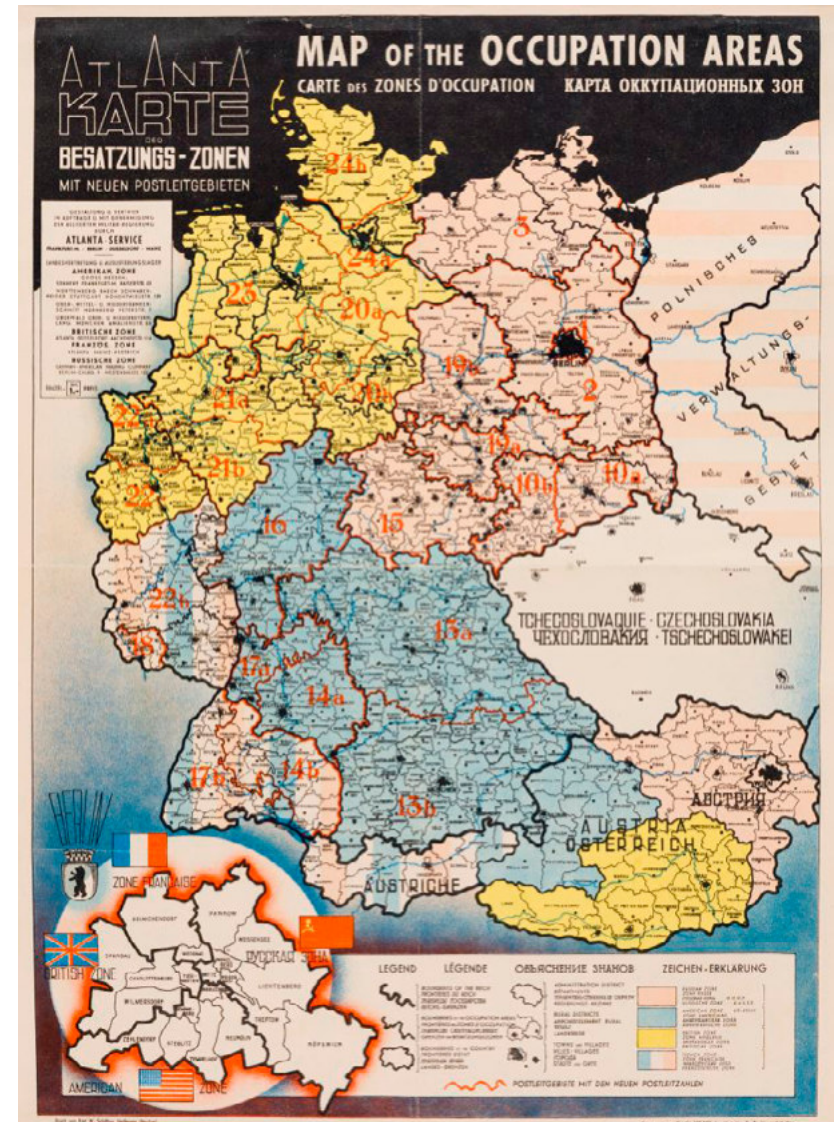
# CRISIS IN BERLIN



Map of the four zones of occupation in Germany and the sectors of Berlin, 1946

## Cold War, The;

*Significance: The Cold War was a global conflict in which the West under the leadership of the USA struggled for world supremacy against the Soviet Union and the Eastern Block it dominated. It was above all ideologically, economically, and technologically driven. Militarily, the competition between both blocs fueled an unprecedented arms race and escalated in numerous proxy wars.*



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**These trucks cannot deliver their goods to the Western sectors of Berlin as all access roads have been blocked, June 1948.**

Together, think about what the Soviet Union hoped to achieve with the blockade of the access roads to Berlin.




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# OPERATION AIRLIFT

**What measures did the Western powers take in response to the Berlin Blockade? What could alternative reactions have looked like?**



# OPERATION AIRLIFT

What measures did the Western powers take in response to the Berlin Blockade? What could alternative reactions have looked like?

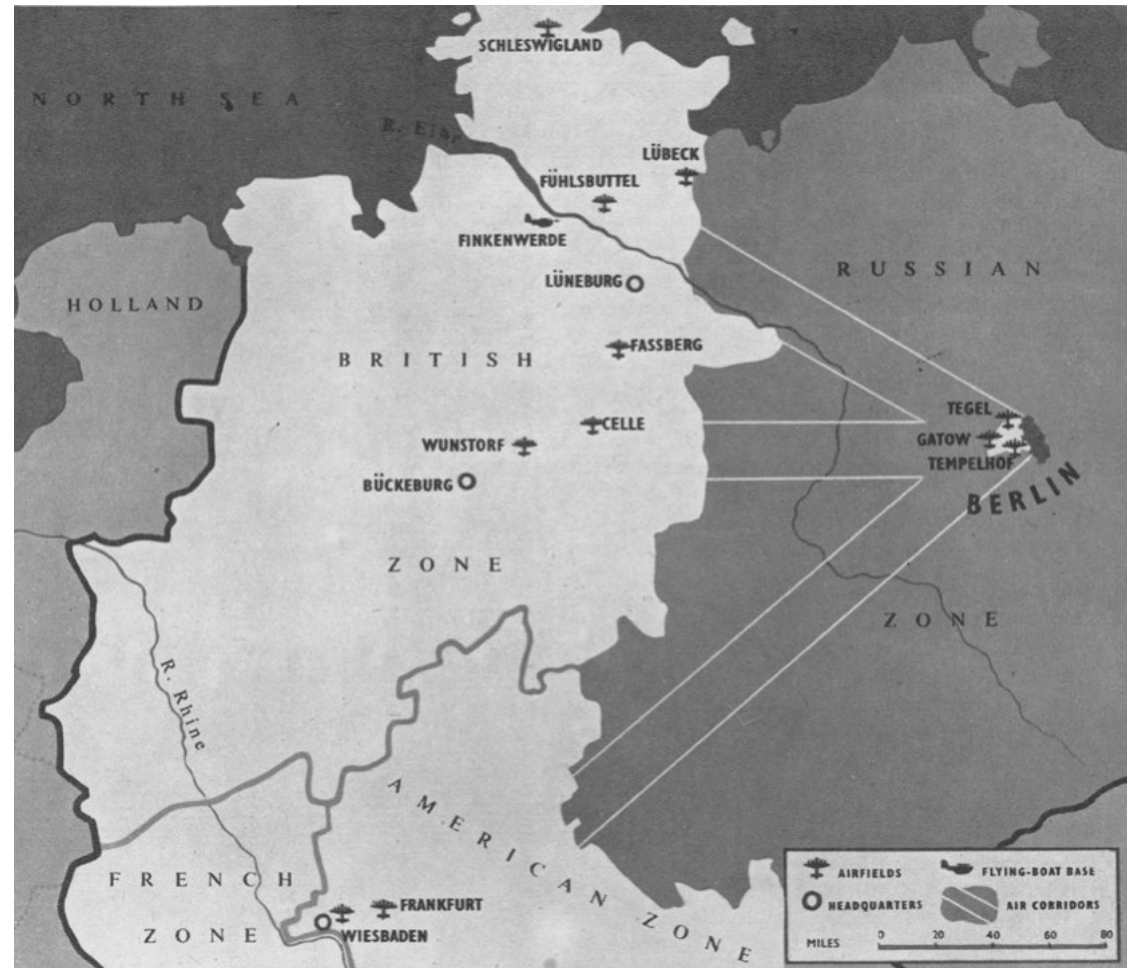


© AlliiertenMuseum|US Air Force

## General Lucius D. Clay:

*“Why are we in Europe? We have lost Czechoslovakia. We have lost Finland. Norway is threatened. ... After Berlin, will come Western Germany....If we mean that we are to hold Europe against communism, we must not budge.”*  
(April 1948)



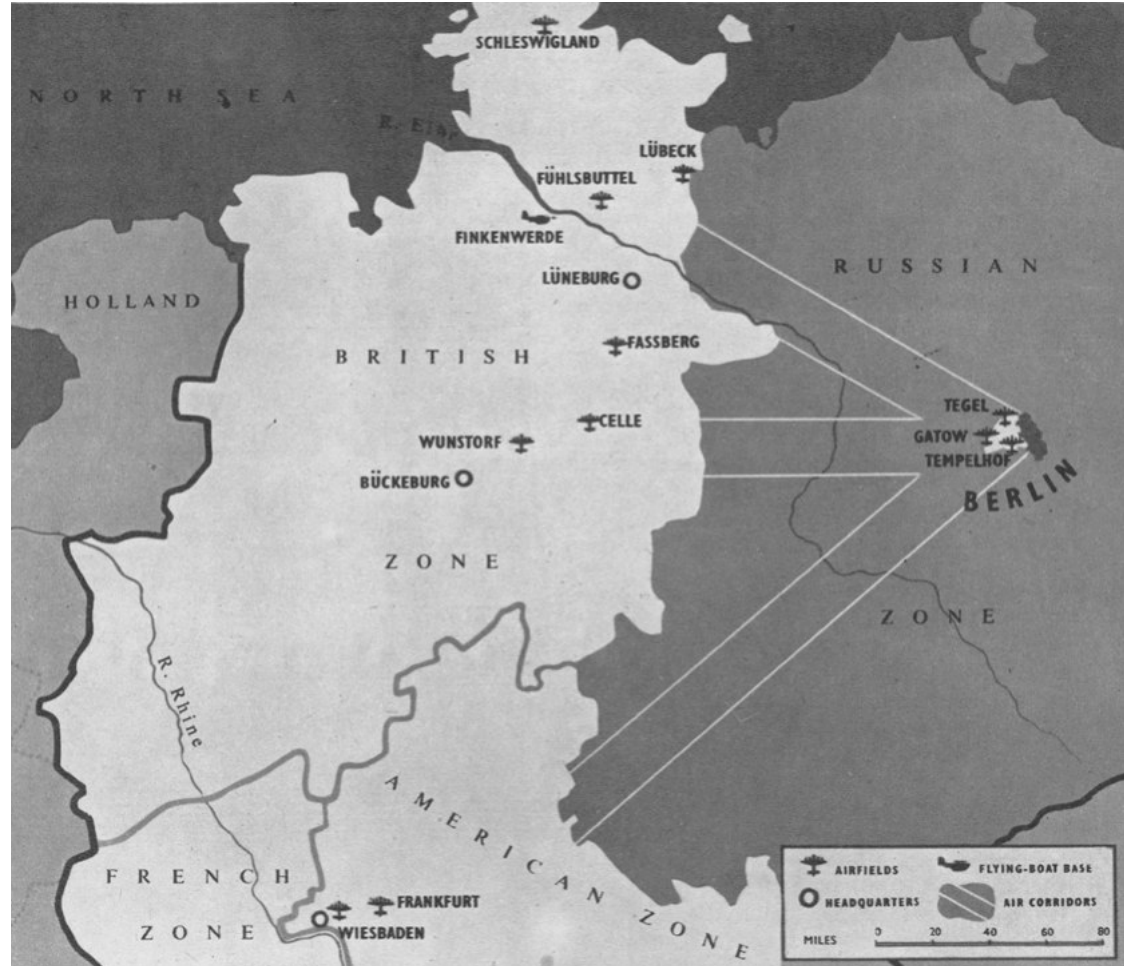


© Air Ministry and the Central Office of Information (Hg.), Berlin Airlift. An Account of the British Contribution, London

Map of the four zones of occupation in Germany denoting the Airlift's airports and the three air corridors connecting Berlin



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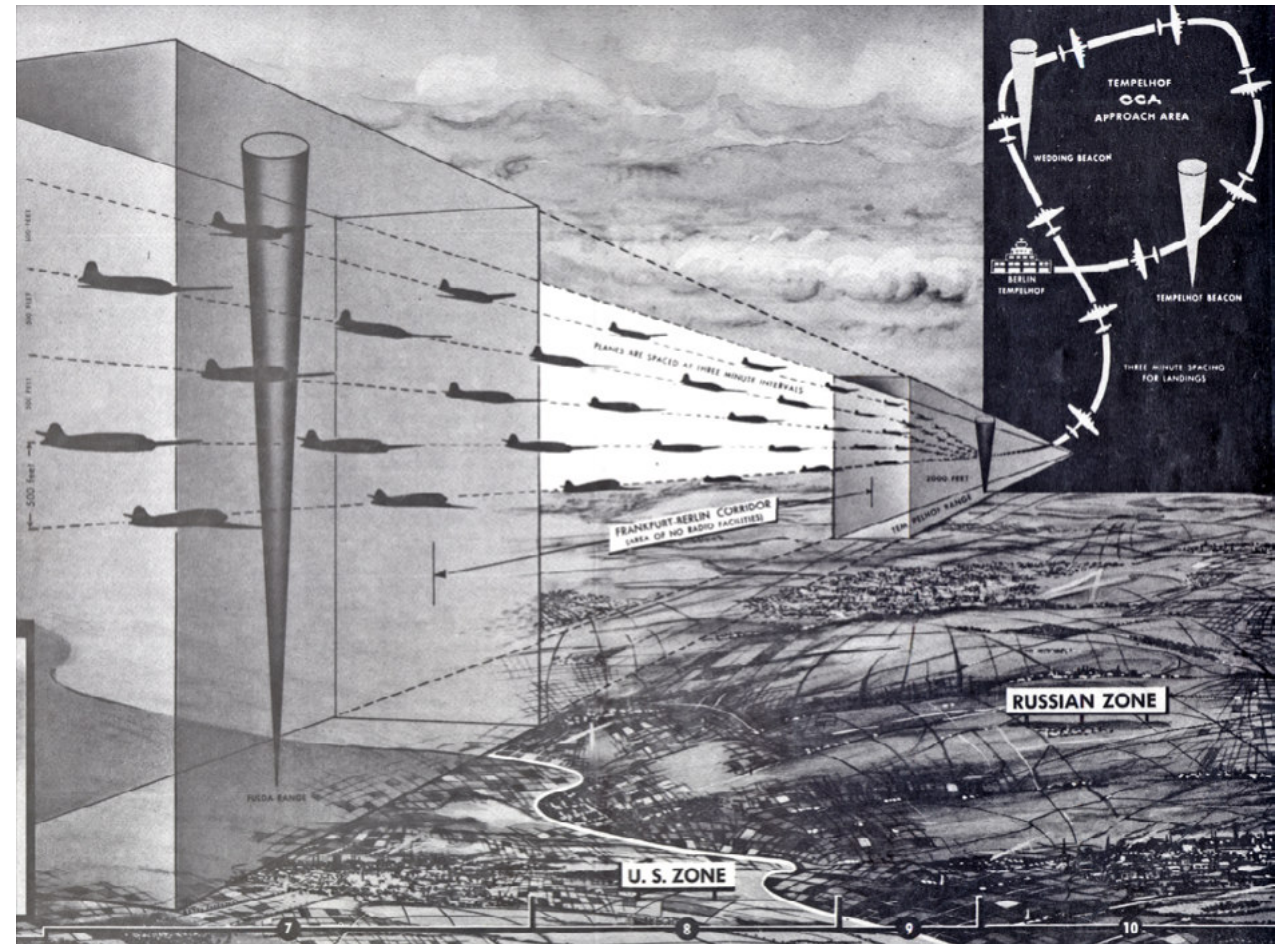


© Air Ministry and the Central Office of Information (Hg.), Berlin Airlift. An Account of the British Contribution, London

Flightline of C-47 planes being unloaded at Berlin Tempelhof Airport, July 1948



# A QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION



© Aviation Operations Magazine 5 (1949)

Visualization of the corridor between Frankfurt Main and Berlin during the Berlin Airlift

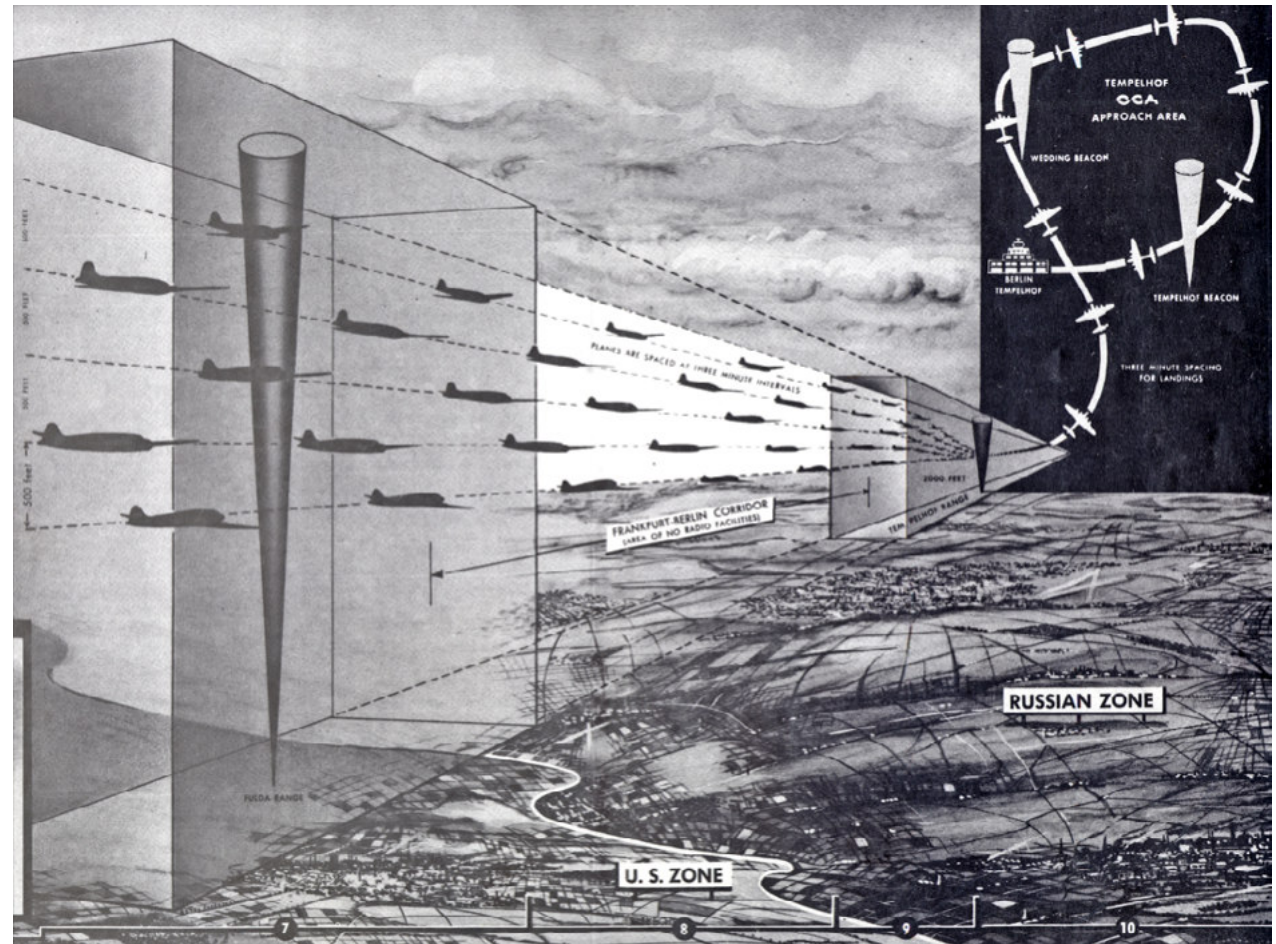




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## Lieutenant General William H. Tunner:

*“Even to think of supplying a city by air alone was daring. It had never been done before.”*  
(1964)



© Aviation Operations Magazine 5 (1949)

Visualization of the corridor between Frankfurt Main  
and Berlin during the Berlin Airlift



© AlliiertenMuseum | US Air Force

### Lieutenant General William H. Tunner:

*“Even to think of supplying a city by air alone  
was daring. It had never been done before.”  
(1964)*



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**Situation control room during the Airlift, at  
Gatow Airport in the British sector of Berlin,  
September 1948**

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On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1949, the Airlift airplanes delivered 12,940 tons of coal to the Western sectors of Berlin: it was a joint record performance by the Airlift pilots and the German freight loaders.

**Together, think about what was supposed to have been demonstrated by this record achievement.**



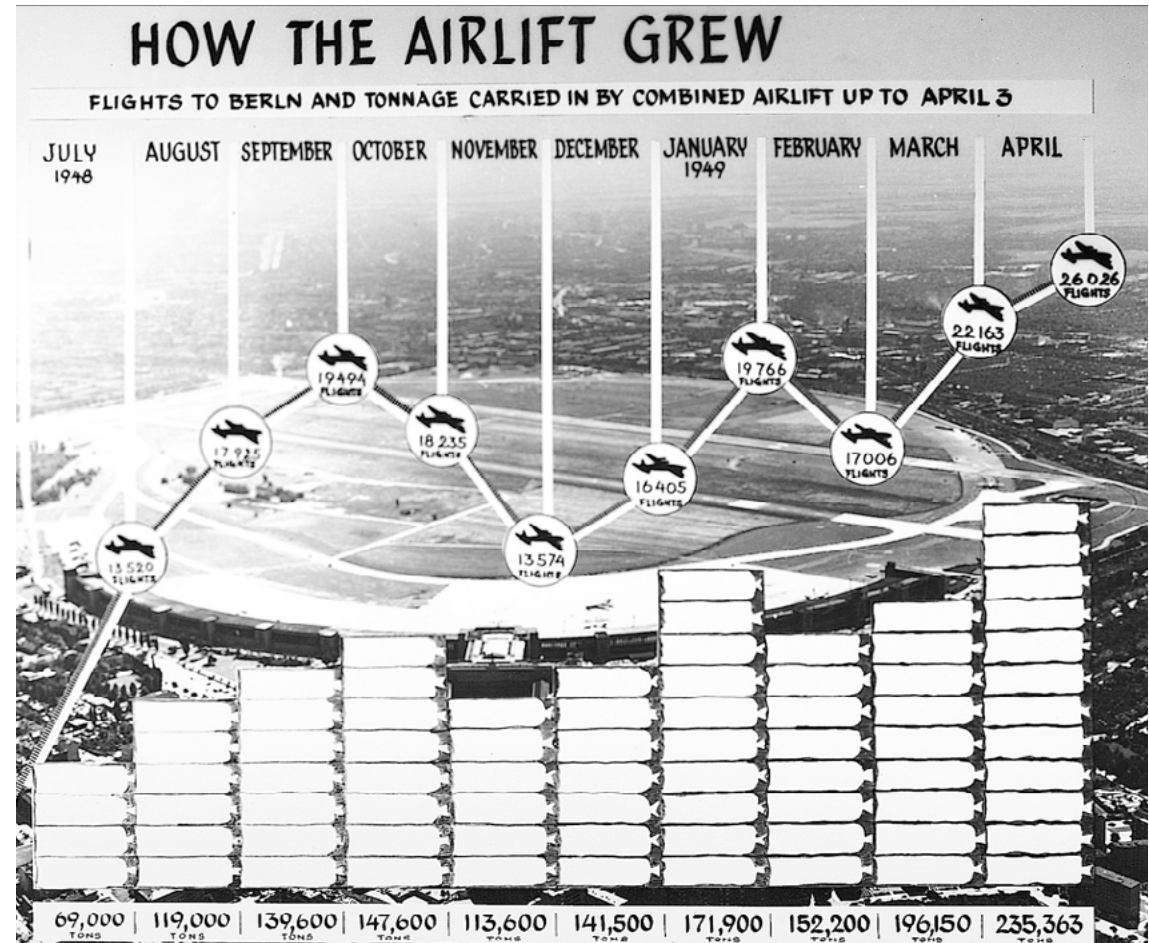
© AlliiertenMuseum | Ministry of Defense

**Situation control room during the Airlift, at Gatow Airport in the British sector of Berlin, September 1948**

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# OF COAL AND RAISINS

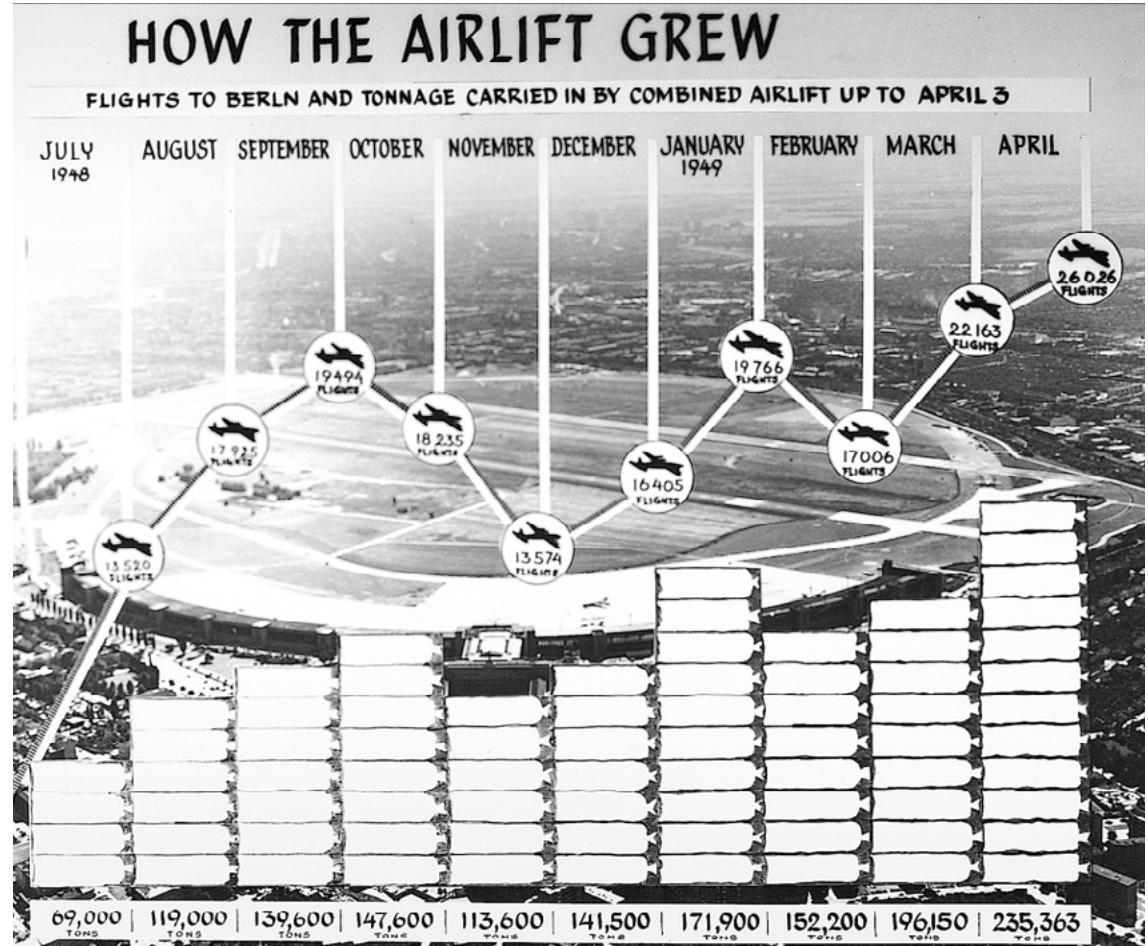


© Air Ministry and the Central Office of Information (Hg.), Berlin Airlift. An Account of the British Contribution, London

Freight tonnage flown to Berlin  
between July 1948 and April 1949



© CARE | Archive



© Air Ministry and the Central Office of Information (Hg.), Berlin Airlift. An Account of the British Contribution, London

CARE package distribution station in Berlin Dahlem in the American sector, 1948/49





© CARE | Archive

CARE package distribution station in Berlin  
Dahlem in the American sector, 1948/49

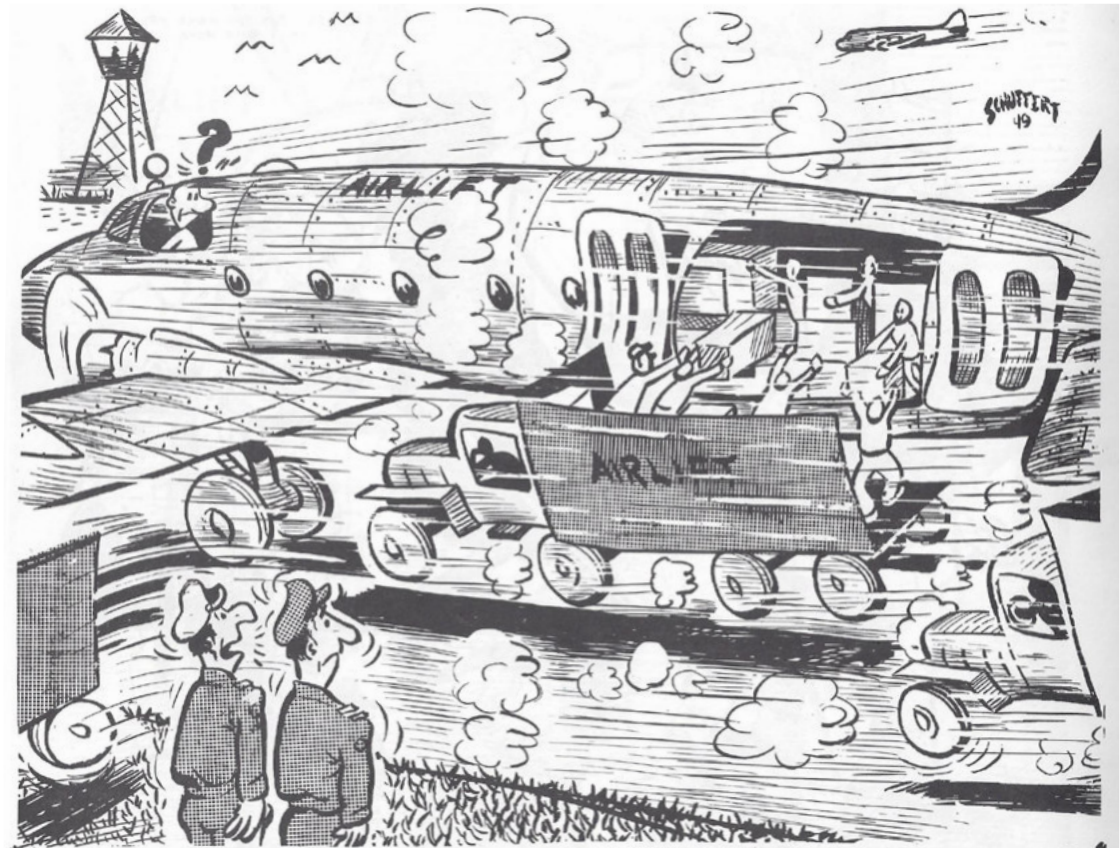
Three years after the end of World War II, Allied airplanes brought supplies to the former capital city of the Reich.

Together, think about how the people in the USA reacted to this aid action.

Why did public reaction look different in France and Great Britain?



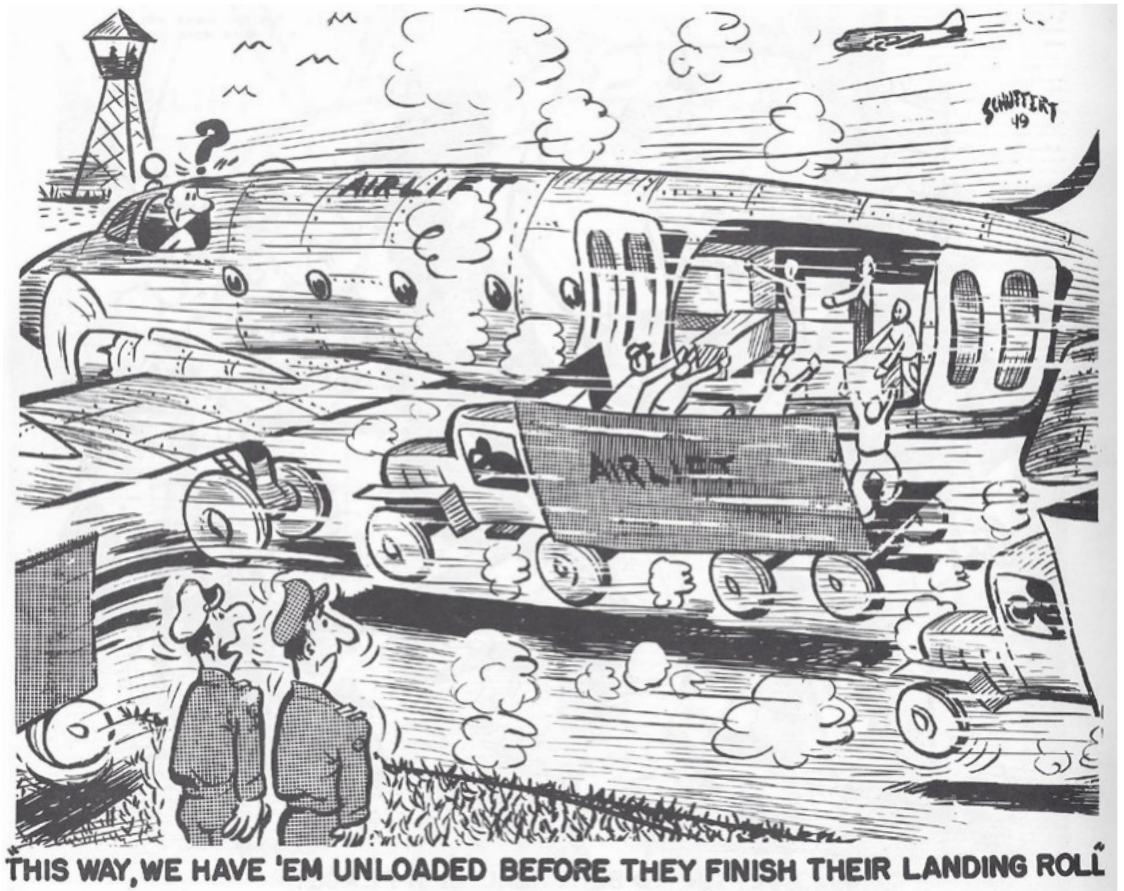
# HOW ENEMIES BECAME FRIENDS



THIS WAY, WE HAVE 'EM UNLOADED BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR LANDING ROLL



© CARE | Archive



THIS WAY, WE HAVE 'EM UNLOADED BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR LANDING ROLL

© John H. Schuffert 1948/49

After the lifting of the Berlin Blockade, the first trucks with CARE packages arrive in West Berlin, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1949.





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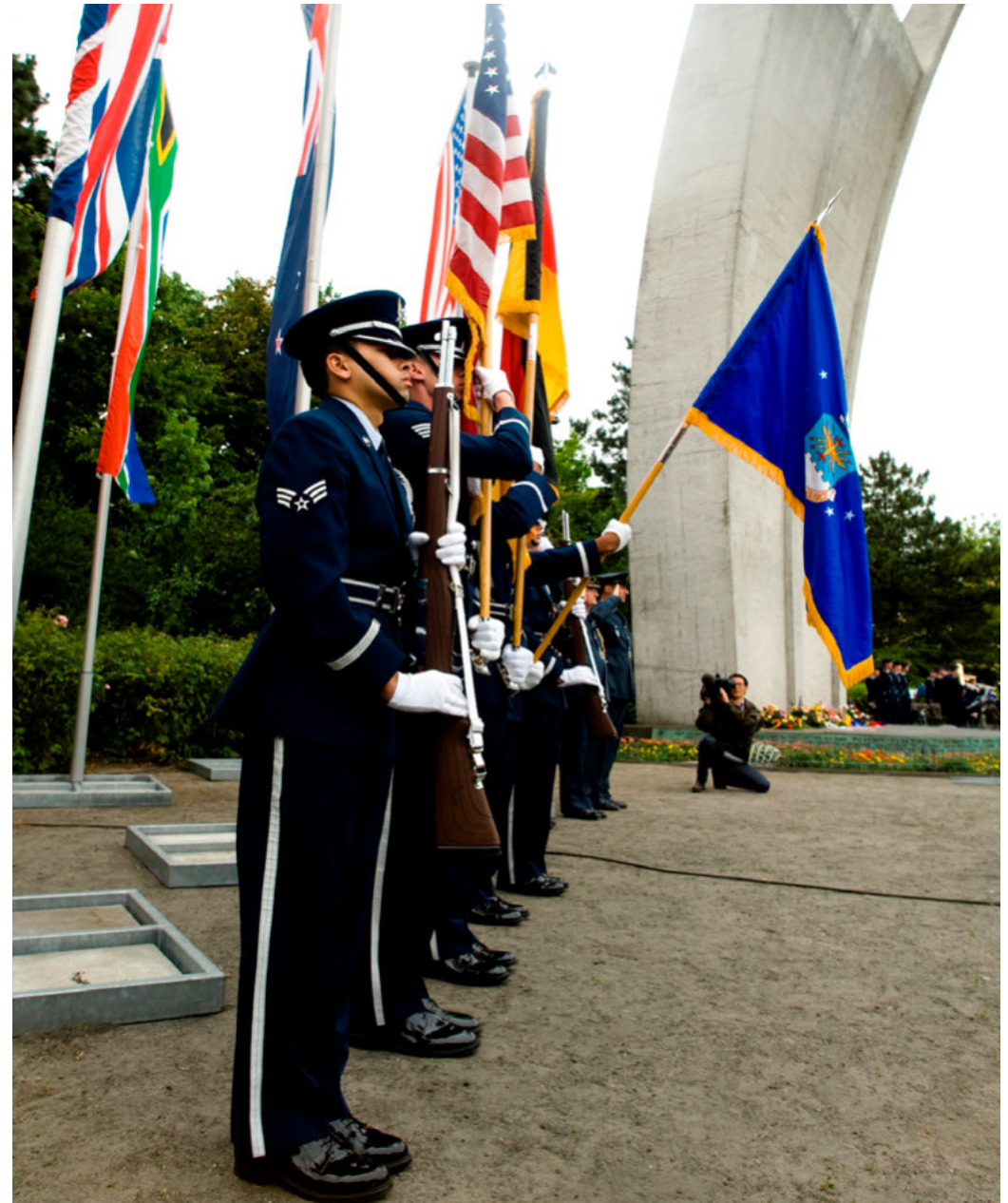
After the lifting of the Berlin Blockade, the first trucks with CARE packages arrive in West Berlin, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1949.

Discuss: to what extent was the Berlin Airlift a turning point in the relationships among the Western powers and the West Berliners?



# REMEMBER, BUT HOW?

Commemorating the 60th anniversary  
of the beginning of the Airlift  
in Berlin, June 2008





© Stiftung Luftbrückendank | Olad Aden

Airlift HipHop, 2016

Every year on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Berlin Senate holds a memorial ceremony at the Airlift Monument and lays a wreath in commemoration of the end of the Berlin Blockade.

**Together, think about why and in what form this first crisis in the Cold War in 1948/49 should be commemorated in the future.**





# AIRLIFT AMBASSADOR



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US pilot Gail S. Halvorsen talking to Berlin children at the Tempelhof Airport fence, 1949





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© AlliiertenMuseum|US Air Force

**US pilot Gail S. Halvorsen drops chocolate parachutes for Berlin children near Tempelhof Airport, 1949.**

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**More information on Gail S. Halvorsen may be found in the book “Making of ... The Men and Women of the Berlin Airlift 1948/49”.**



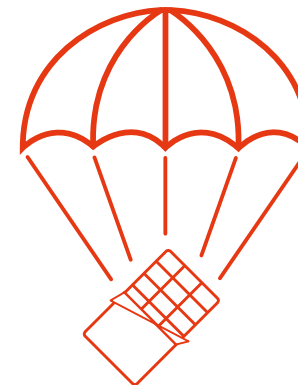


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### How to Make a Chocolate Parachute:

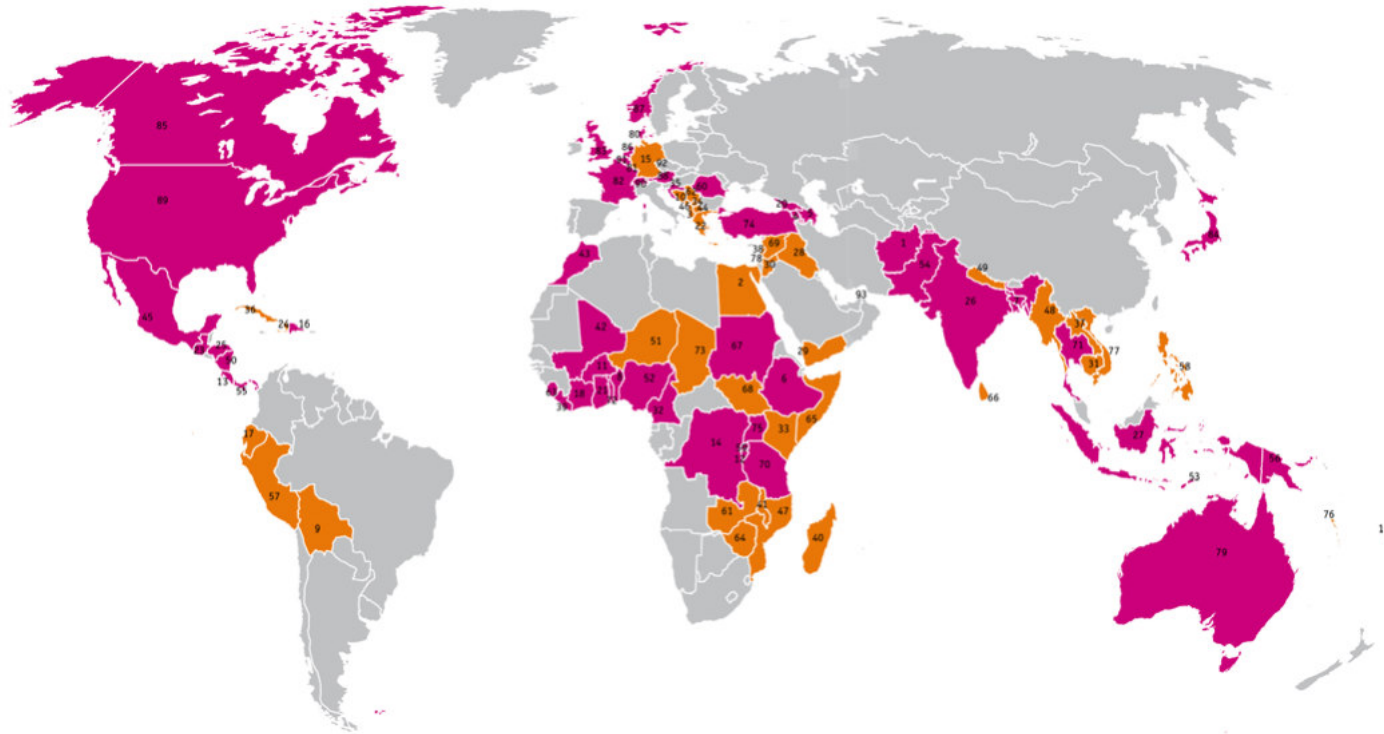
Stick the chocolate bar into the string noose and draw it tight. Tie each of the four strings to a corner of the handkerchief. And finally throw the parachute up into the air!







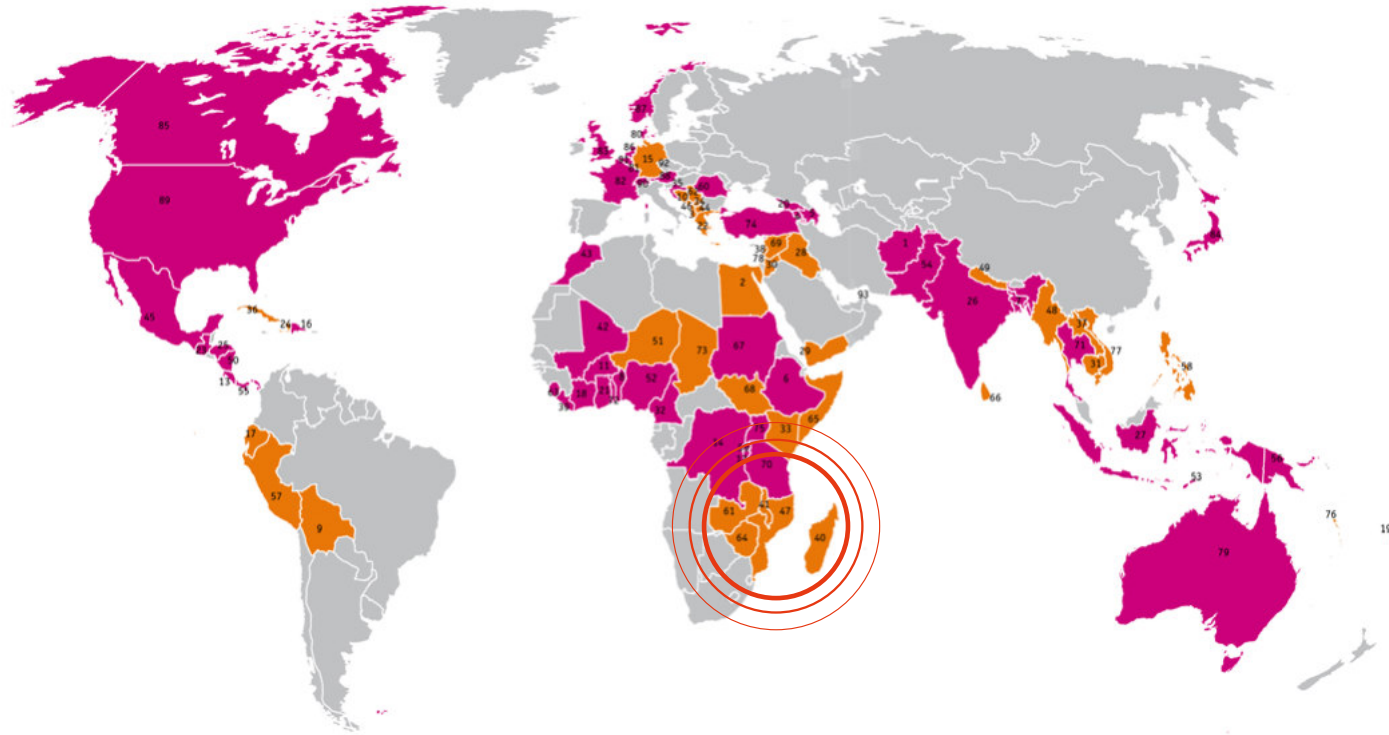
# HUMANITARIAN AID TODAY



■ Projektländer CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg e.V.  
■ weitere Präsenz- und Projektländer CARE International

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More than 70 years after the Berlin Airlift, CARE is one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations, active in around 90 countries against poverty and hardship.



■ Projektländer CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg e.V.  
■ weitere Präsenz- und Projektländer CARE International

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On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Cyclone Idai left more than two million people homeless in Mozambique.



**Try answering the question in groups:  
How can humanitarian relief operations be  
organized today? What aid supplies are  
needed? How can people in need be reached?**



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