Berlin Airlift Quotes

The transport division of the Soviet military administration is compelled to halt all passenger and freight traffic to and from Berlin tomorrow at 0600 hours because of technical difficulties. West Berlin will receive electricity only between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m....

Soviet Communiqué

We had no guns, only flour.

Unknown airlift pilot

Although we started by carrying coal, the loads varied, most of them being foodstuffs, such as dehydrated potato. The dirtiest cargo from our point of view was soya flour… a fine powder settled everywhere, especially, it seemed on … our uniforms.

Laurie Nutton; Westminster Airways

Sir, the Air Force can deliver anything.

Lt. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, Commander of the USAF in Europe

...futile attempts of the Americans to save face and to maintain their untenable position in Berlin.

The Communist press in East Berlin

Valuable time was wasted in Berlin as crews landed, parked, shut off engines, took off for the snack bar and then strolled over to Operations to make out their return clearances. I laid down an order: No crew member was to leave the side of his aircraft while the Germans unloaded it. Each plane would be met by an operations officer who would hand the pilot his return clearance all filled out, and a weather officer would give him the latest weather back at his home base. Mobile snack bars tended by some of the most beautiful girls in Berlin would move to the side of each plane. Turn-around time was cut in half to 30 minutes.

General William H Tunner USAF

What happens to Berlin, happens to Germany; what happens to Germany, happens to Europe

Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov

If we mean that we are to hold Europe against communism, we must not budge. We can take humiliation and pressure short of war in Berlin without losing face. I believe the future of democracy requires us to stay here until forced out.

General Lucius D Clay US Army

...there is no discussion on that point, we are going to stay – period.

US President Harry S Truman

...no alternative between that and surrender, and none of us can accept surrender.

British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin

It got so all we did was fly and sleep.

1st Lt Kenneth Nessen USAF

.. my crew carried our first load of children from Berlin. We pooled our aircrew sweet rations and gave it to the nurse in charge of these children to share out among them. 34 pairs of eyes lit up like little candles when they realized what was coming…..

Col I Le C Bergh, Sunderland pilot, No. 230 Squadron RAF

Berlin Wall Quotes

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

US President Ronald Reagan

Ich bin ein Berliner
US President John F Kennedy
Anti-fascist protection wall
**East German propaganda definition**