

Berlin Airlift

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On June 24, 1948, the Soviet Union blocked all road, rail, and water travel to and from West Berlin. Two days later, the United States began airlifting food, water, medical and other supplies from western Germany. For nearly a year, over 200,000 planes landed in Berlin and carried 1.5 million tons of supplies.

In October 1948 Berlin post offices in the western sectors of Berlin used the "Luftbrücke" (air bridge) cancellation to mark 100 days of the blockade.

*"From the blockaded Berlin
via the air bridge
to the West"*

"100 days of the air bridge"



Row 1 [l-r] — The first stamp is the only stamp issued by the United States in 1998 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. The next two stamps were issued by Germany in 1949 to honor the airmen who flew in the airlift. The last stamp was issued in 1956 by Germany to commemorate the monuments erected in the cities of Berlin and Frankfurt.



Row 2 [l-r] — The stamps in this row were issued by Germany in 1959, 1974, 1989, and 1999 to commemorate the 10th, 25th, 40th, and 50th anniversaries of the Berlin Airlift.



Row 3 — A closed booklet of stamps issued by Great Britain in 1999 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their participation in the Berlin Airlift.



Row 4 — The open booklet with the stamps issued by Great Britain.