

The Untold Story Of The Berlin Airlift And America's Finest Hour

Once upon a time, in the midst of the cold war, a remarkable event known as the Berlin Airlift took place. This historical event unfolded as a response to one of the most critical situations of the 20th century - the Soviet blockade of West Berlin. The Berlin Airlift not only showcased the spirit and determination of the American people, but it also demonstrated the power of unity and cooperation as a means to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The year was 1948, and post-World War II Germany was divided into four occupation zones controlled by the victorious Allied powers - the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France. While tensions between these superpowers were already high, the situation escalated when the Soviet Union imposed a blockade around West Berlin, cutting off supply lines and isolating the city from the Western world.

With no access to essential supplies such as food, fuel, and medicine, the people of West Berlin were in dire straits. The Soviet Union aimed to force the Western powers out of the city and gain full control over Berlin. The stage was set for a dramatic confrontation that would test the resolve and resilience of the Western world.

The Candy Bombers: The Untold Story of the Berlin Aircraft and America's Finest Hour

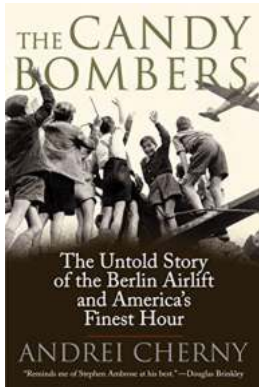
by Andrei Cherny (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
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Print length : 668 pages



As news of the blockade reached Washington D.C., President Harry S. Truman and his advisors faced a crucial decision - to succumb to Soviet pressure or to respond with a bold act of defiance. History remembers the choice they made as one of America's finest hours.

On June 24, 1948, the Berlin Airlift officially began. The operation aimed to supply West Berlin exclusively by air, bypassing the Soviet blockade. The task was monumental, as approximately 2.5 million West Berliners had to be sustained with over 4,500 tons of supplies each day.

In a display of extraordinary determination, the United States and its allies initiated a massive airlift operation that would last for almost a year. Bases in Britain and West Germany became the starting points for a constant stream of aircraft, flying in supplies round the clock. Day after day, these planes took off and landed, unloading essential goods and providing a lifeline to the people of West Berlin.

The Berlin Airlift was not without its challenges. The Soviet Union, in an attempt to break the blockade, employed various tactics to hinder the airlift. Interference with radio communication, harassment of planes, and even dangerous

maneuvers in the air were just some of the ways they tried to diminish the effectiveness of the operation. Yet, the pilots and crews of the airlift remained undeterred, adapting to the changing circumstances and finding innovative ways to maintain the flow of supplies.

The story of the Berlin Airlift is not only one of heroic pilots and dedicated ground crews. It also highlights the incredible resilience and bravery of the people of West Berlin. As the blockade continued, the citizens of the city stood together, enduring difficult conditions with unwavering determination. The airlift became a symbol of hope, unity, and the indomitable human spirit.

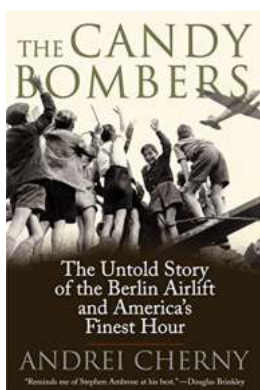
Finally, on May 12, 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the blockade. The Berlin Airlift had succeeded. Over the course of its operation, more than 277,000 flights were made, delivering over 2.3 million tons of supplies. The airlift became a triumph of innovation, logistical coordination, and most importantly, the unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy.

The Berlin Airlift remains a shining example of American leadership and resolve in the face of adversity. It was a turning point in the early days of the Cold War, demonstrating the determination of the United States to stand up for its values and protect its allies. It also served as a stark reminder to the world that the power of cooperation and humanitarian efforts can prevail even in the darkest of times.

As we reflect on this historical event, we must remember the sacrifices made by the pilots, crew members, and citizens involved in the Berlin Airlift. Their untold stories deserve recognition and appreciation for their invaluable contributions.

The Berlin Airlift was truly America's finest hour, a testament to the strength and resilience of a nation willing to go above and beyond to uphold the principles of

freedom and justice. It serves as a reminder that even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, hope can prevail.



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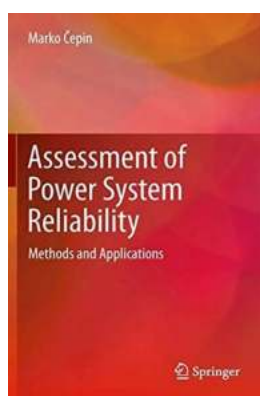


In the tradition of the great narrative storytellers, Andrei Cherny recounts the exhilarating saga of the unlikely men who made the Berlin Airlift one of the great military and humanitarian successes of American history.

“What an exciting, inspiring, and wonderfully-written book this is....Each page has lessons for today, and it is also a thrilling narrative to read.”—Walter Isaacson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Steve Jobs

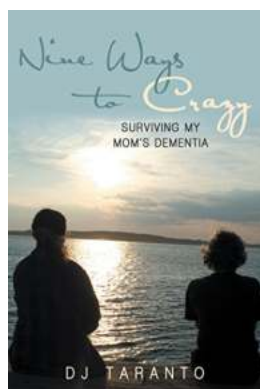
The Candy Bombers is a remarkable story with profound implications for our own time. Cherny tells the tale of the ill-assorted group of castoffs and secondstringers who not only saved millions of desperate people from a dire threat, but also won the hearts of America’s defeated enemies, inspired people around the world to believe in America’s fundamental goodness, avoided World War III, and won the greatest battle of the Cold War without firing a shot.

With newly unclassified documents, unpublished letters and diaries, and fresh primary interviews, *The Candy Bombers* takes readers along as American pilots, with only a few small rickety planes, manage to feed and supply West Berlin completely by air for nearly a year; as Harry Truman exploits the very real threat of war to win an upset reelection campaign; as America's first secretary of defense descends into madness in the midst of a dangerous military crisis; and as a lovesick American pilot shows that acts of basic human kindness can send powerful ripples through the course of history.



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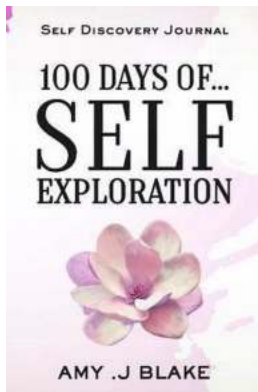
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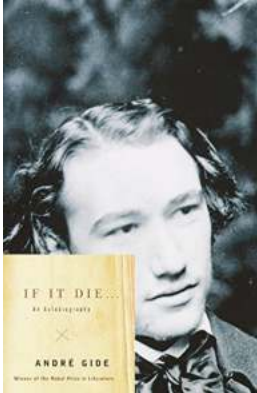
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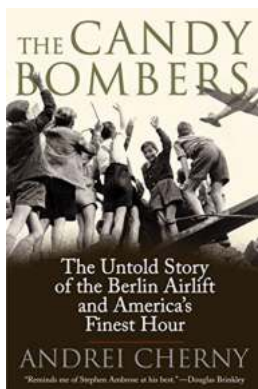
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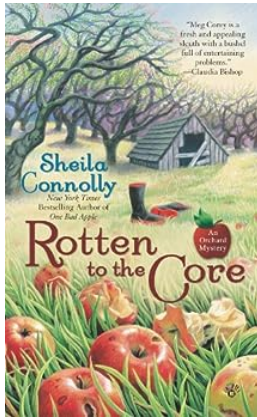
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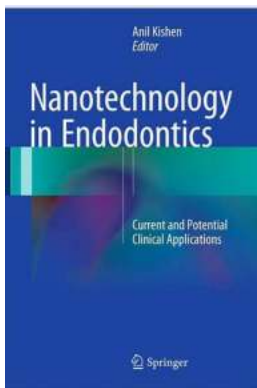
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