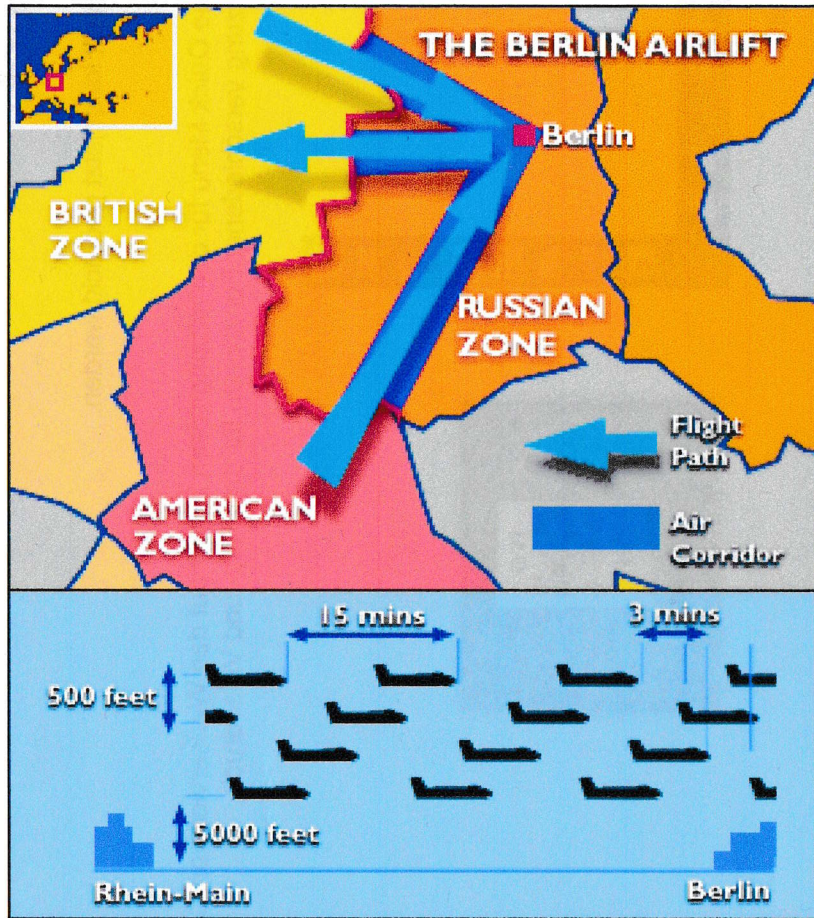


# The Berlin Airlift ("Operation Vittles")



[[http://news.bbc.co.uk/olmedia/70000/images/\\_71750\\_be\\_air2.gif](http://news.bbc.co.uk/olmedia/70000/images/_71750_be_air2.gif); 2/9/15]

## WHY?

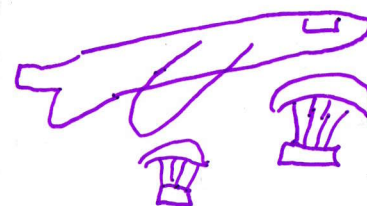
- currency reform
  - ↳ D-Mark installed by Western Allies in West-Berlin + West Occupation zone
  - ⇒ Russia (resp. GDR) ≠ accept it
  - ↳ trade blockade around West-Berlin
  - ⇒ people in West-Berlin had no electricity / food / ... etc.
- use of air corridors (still free)

## HOW?

- supply by airlifts (three air corridors)
- British and American aircrafts (crew from all over the world)
- expansion of the airport → 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1949 : highpoint / *climax*
- need for high precision-work (cooperation)
- operation "Little Vittles"

## IMPACT?

- SU abolished the blockades Feb, 10, 2015
- relationship between Western Allies and Germany improved
  - ↳ "friends" → (sweets as a starting point for a deep friendship)
- for Soviet Union → worst case scenario



"Operation Little Vittles"

- Berlin = symbol / island of freedom / democracy