

# 'Call it Operation Vittles....'

(Editor's note: Randall Tully is the husband of Mrs. Willie Baker Booth Tully, a native of Carlisle. Mrs. Tully and their son, E. R. Tully, Jr., lived in Carlisle while Tully took part in the Berlin Airlift and left from here to join his team. The book described below is expected to be available at the Nicholas County Public Library soon. The story is from a Rantoul, Ill. newspaper.)

RANTOUL, Ill.—"It's three, that's all, Gen. Joseph Smith, we're hauling you. Call it Operation Vittles if you want. With that hip-shot articulation the Berlin Airlift was dubbed. Randy Tully, owner of Tully's True Value Hardware in Rantoul will remember his role in that historic mission of post-World War II.

In fact, U.S. exploits and those of some 30,000 others from the U.S., France and Great Britain, are now immortalized in a book by Randall Tully, "Bridge Across the Sky." McGraw-Hill Book Company, 175 Broadway, New York 17, B. Berlin literally was an island city, surrounded by Russian-occupied East Germany. A four-power agreement, however, was to guarantee access to Berlin from the city from the three western Allied zones in West Germany, including three 20-mile-wide air corridors.

The post-war honeymoon between the Allied forces came to an abrupt halt in June of 1946, when the Russians, in an attempt to claim all Berlin, blocked highways and canals to "free" sectors of Berlin.

NOTHING SHORT of a miracle was necessary to save Berlin from starvation or communist lie. Huber than face those alternatives brave thinkers undertook what most considered at the time to be impossible. Provide 2.2 million free Berliners with provisions carried in by air.

The airlift lasted 15 months, the Russians gave in within 14 months and involved a total of 441 missions flying 274,926 flights covering 114,430,811 miles to carry 2,262,067 tons of supplies. The whole operation cost \$30 million and 73 lives.

But, that "impossible dream" succeeded thanks to President Harry Truman's iron support and the "out-landish" dreams and determination of men such as Gen. Lucius Clay, United States Military Governor of Germany and Commander of U.S. Forces in Europe, Lt. General Brian Robertson, British Military Governor, and Major General William Tunner, commander in chief of the Combined Airlift Task Force.

ALTHOUGH TULLY considers his eight months stint as a pilot during the airlift among the most memorable of his experiences thus far, he also remembers the misery the operation brought the airmen.

"We were constantly fighting the weather and our own fatigue," Tully said. "During the airlift we didn't consider it glorious, as we do now. It was miserable."

Tully, a native of West Virginia, had spent most of World War II training

his book, notes that "... four hours in the cockpit was equivalent to eight hours on the ground."

Plans slept between runs from three Allied airports in West Germany to the three airports in free Berlin. The grid was, to use understatement, exhausting. Collier documents numerous cases of pilots going over the edge; driven insane by the pace.

But, like Tully, most survived it. On the average Tully flew 94 hours in 15 days. It's all recorded in his flight log book which is still by his side.

HIS ROUTINE WAS shortened somewhat when Maj. Gen. Tunner streamlined the flight patterns to decrease collision potentials and foremost, provide for additional supplies to come through.

Instead of flying from Rhein-Main to Tempelhoff, the airlift began flying Rhein-Main to Gallow Air Base, which effectively cut the air time in half. The weather was something else. Fog and ice made flying miserable much of the time. Pilots were forced to fly by instruments alone, since visibility was so poor. But, the planes were in such constant use, repair time was confined to major problems. Tully remembers few flights during which his instruments worked. "Half were out all the time," he recalls. "We flew by the seat."

Carrying pierced steel planking (psp) to extend a crumbling Gallow air strip, Tully's plane began losing altitude

when an engine sputtered and died. SINCE HE WAS flying his turn as copilot, he went back to the cargo area to try and dump some of the PSPs. The materials were far too heavy for one person to handle, however. Since the two were alone on the flight they had no choice but to cross their fingers, hold the stick back and give it power. They just made it to Tempelhoff with a few feet to spare. That was close enough for Tully.

Tully managed to fly in the face of all personal and external obstacles for seven months, at which time he was given his first break. His wife and newly-born son Rick finally got to Germany and for a month enjoyed a long-awaited reunion.

The homes were on the Swiss border and apparently were located there to provide insurance in Switzerland in the event the war turned sour for the Germans.

Tully came back home finally on April 19, 1949, having participated truly in the first confrontation of the Cold War.

March 20 to March 21, 1949. He was then sent, with family, to Kempton, south of Berlin to serve as commissary officer of the American dependents housed there.

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## Hospital report

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## Saltwell

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Caswell, Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gausson and Chedy Livingston were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Gausson, honoring the birthday of H. A. Gausson. Afternoon visitors were Mrs. Elaine McDonald and sons of Paris.

Mrs. Gladys Kenney and Mrs. Helen Roberts were Friday dinner guests of Mrs. A. R. Fisher in Carlisle. Mr. and Mrs. David Earlywine and Jeff were Thursday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Thacker and family. Mrs. Bobby Brady visited Mr. and Mrs. Millard Ashery, Mr. and Mrs. Spers Collins, Mrs. Christine Rodgers and Alma Mattox, Paris, during the week.

Mrs. Linda Courtney and children Brian and Annie, Harrison County spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Orville Doyle. Mrs. Garnet Grey was a patient in St. Joseph Hospital a few days the past week for treatment but returned home on Thursday. She plans to re-enter this Friday for possible surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Stapp and Eddie, Cincinnati, Mrs. Roger Goodman, Angie and Paula of Indianapolis, Ind., Miss Holly Grady and Mrs. Gladys Boy, Carlisle spent Sunday with Mrs. Roy E. Stapp, honoring several recent birthdays of members of their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Mattox accompanied Mrs. Honor Ward to their home on Saturday after a week's treatment at Boone County Hospital. Her condition is improved. Our community extends sympathy to the family of Mrs. Dora Myrner of the Rose Hill neighborhood, who passed away at Nicholas County Hospital on Friday morning. Funeral and burial were in Carlisle on Sunday afternoon by Rev. J. H. Ritchie and Rev. Roy Hunt.

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Delaney on their recent 50th wedding anniversary and to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Earlywine on their 37th on Monday. Both are faithful families from the Headquarters Church.

Mrs. Lucien Grey, Paris, spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Grey at Nicholas County Hospital. Mr. Grey is slightly improved. Mrs. Raymond Wright was a patient at Harrison Memorial Hospital on Saturday. Mrs. and Mrs. Raymond Kennedy, Mrs. Herbert Blakeman and daughters Dora and Fress of Lexington spent Sunday with Martha and Daley Kenney.

Jeff Mattox, student at M. S. U. Morehead spent several days the past week with a group of students in Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Fred Hollar was guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Ritchie and

daughter Melissa and Mike Harney at Charles's Roller Rink on Friday night. The Headquarters United Methodist women and men will meet at the church this Thursday night March 22 at 8:30 p.m. for soup and sandwiches. Week of prayer will be observed. Danny Vice of the Morehead Church will be speaker for the men.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Mattox and Mrs. Eugene Campbell at Frankfort on Saturday. Mrs. Bobby Brady accompanied her parents Mr. and Mrs. Orville Doyle on Friday. Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Delaney visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar on Sunday afternoon.

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by Mrs. Fred Hollar

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- Stillwell Frozen Fruit Cobblers 2 lbs. \$1.55
- Topicana Frozen Orange Juice 12 oz. can 69¢
- Lipton Tea Bags 159
- Laundry Detergent Bold 149
- Fabric Softener Bounce 189
- 15' off Label Dial Soap 99¢
- 15' off Label Ajax Dish Liquid 89¢
- 4' off Label Comet Cleanser 39¢
- R.C. Cola or Diet Rite Cola \$1.19
- Kraft 12 oz. American Singles \$1.19
- Ballard Sweetmilk Biscuits Six pack 99¢
- Naft Orange Juice 64 oz. Bottle \$1.29
- Tabletite Fresh Ground Beef 139
- Fischer's Smoked Picnics 89¢
- Fischer's Special Sliced Bacon 149
- Boston Fresh Pork Roast 129
- Tabletite Canned Ham 999
- Tabletite Head Lettuce 49¢
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- General Mills Wheaties 69¢
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