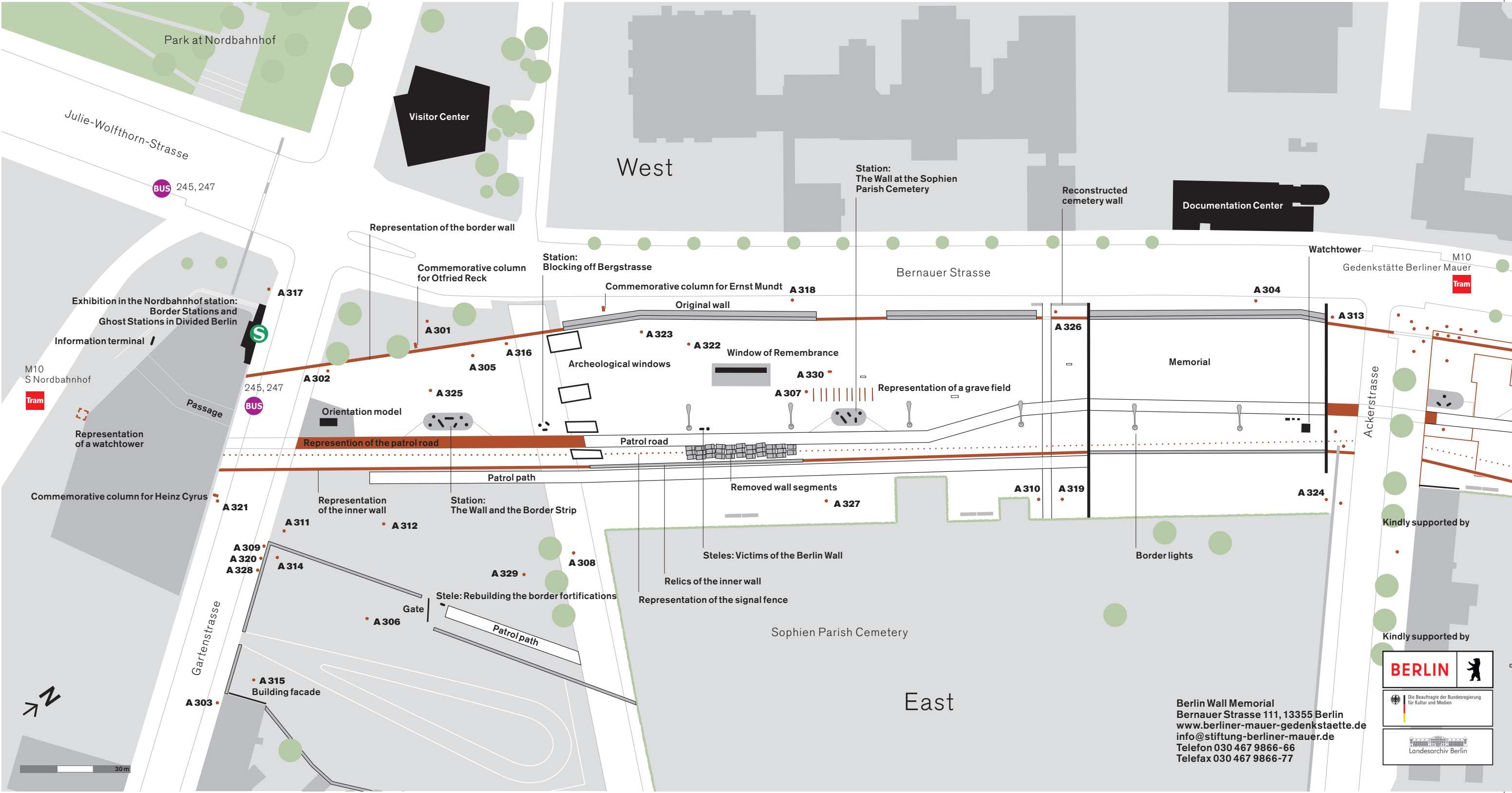


Berlin Wall Memorial
Area A:
**The Berlin Wall and
the Death Strip**
Orientation map
and incident markers



A 301
After August 13, 1961, people from East and West Berlin came to the Wall again and again. They wanted to see this inconceivable situation with their own eyes, exchange greetings with relatives on the other side of the city, and voice their outrage. As soon as the Wall was erected, the people in East Berlin were kept away from it and had to be repeatedly pushed away. But in West Berlin people continued to gather spontaneously at the Wall for many weeks after the border was closed. A crowd of about 200 people gathered at Gartenstrasse at around 7 p.m. on September 10. Some wanted to wave to someone; others wanted to protest against the Wall. Stones flew at the East Berlin border guards from the crowd.

A 302
Early in the morning on March 17, 1964, an unidentified person succeeded in fleeing to the West at Gartenstrasse. Either the border guards had not been alert, as their supervisors assumed, or they intentionally looked in the other direction. An East German border guard report states: "The sentries posted there performed their duty poorly and did not notice the border violator crossing the border fortifications ca. 3 feet from their position."

17.3.1964
A 302
Flucht,
eine Person



A 305: First demolition of a building at the border

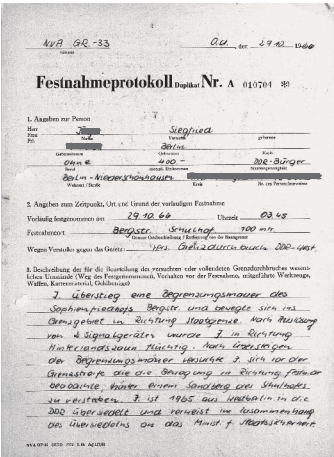
A 303
Horst Walter K. approached the border strip early in the morning on September 13, 1966. After reaching the inner wall, he demanded that the border soldiers allow him to go to the West. He was arrested. It is not known what happened to him after that.

A 304
On October 26, 1962, two young men in their early twenties managed to flee over the Wall at the Sophien parish cemetery. They approached the border fortifications in the dark, taking advantage of the unclear cemetery grounds. The border guards at Ackerstrasse 42 first noticed them just as they swung themselves onto the Wall from a coil of barbed wire. Both guards opened fire and one of the fugitives was probably injured on his hand. One bullet went into the porter's lodge of the Lazarus Hospital. The fugitives made it to West Berlin.

A 305
The only building between Bergstrasse and Gartenstrasse to have survived the war was already evacuated of its residents by August. The East German border guards demolished the building in October. It was the first building on Bernauer Strasse, and one of the first buildings in all of Berlin, that had to give way to the border regime.

A 306
East German border guards arrested Erich-Klaus D. on Gartenstrasse on September 22, 1970, as he tried to escape.

A 307
Graves on the Sophien parish cemetery were continually moved to make room for the border fortifications. The first documented grave reburial took place in January 1962.



A 308: Facsimile of an arrest protocol

A 308
On October 29, 1966, Siegfried J., who had just moved from the West to East Berlin in 1965, tried to enter into West Berlin at Bergstrasse. He climbed over the cemetery wall and proceeded from there to the border wall. After triggering a signaling device which alarmed the border soldiers of his presence, he tried to escape from them by taking Bergstrasse back into East Berlin. He hid on the school grounds where he was arrested by the border guards. When questioned about his move during his interrogation, he referred to the East German State Security Service.

A 309
On April 2, 1977, an unknown person was arrested at Gartenstrasse while trying to flee.

A 310
Bodo H. was arrested on April 15, 1966, for "violation of the border regulations" because he had entered the Sophien parish cemetery without a special permit.

A 311
On February 16, 1962, border guard sergeant Egon Z. succeeded in fleeing to the West with his sister and her friend near Gartenstrasse after knocking out his squad leader.

A 312
On January 18, 1974, Karl-Heinz M. was arrested by border soldiers within the border strip while trying to escape. He had already climbed over the inner wall and had probably gotten past the border signal fence when he was arrested.

A 313
On December 29, 1961, the border guard Alfred Sch. was assigned with two other guards to keep surveillance on the cemetery near Ackerstrasse. Under a false pretext, he left his two comrades and climbed over the cemetery wall to West Berlin. When he got tangled in the barbed wire, two West Berlin policemen pulled him over the Wall, but his boot got stuck. The picture of his boot in the barbed wire was shown the next day in the papers.



A 313: The site where Alfred Sch. escaped; he took the photo the day before he fled

A 314
Not all fugitives who had to give up their escape attempt were arrested. A man on Gartenstrasse was observed by border soldiers on March 9, 1963, as he "approached the border security system". When the border soldiers tried to arrest him, he was able to flee to East Berlin.

A 315
Uwe W. observed the border fortifications from the building at Gartenstrasse 26 in preparation of his escape. He worked as a coal carrier and was therefore in possession of a permit to enter the border territory. But the East German police checked his papers and arrested him nonetheless. During his interrogation he admitted that he had wanted to flee to West Berlin.

A 316
For different reasons, a number of people from West Berlin also tried to get over the Wall. On February 29, 1964, an unidentified man climbed over the border fortifications at Bergstrasse. Although the border soldiers fired at him, he was able to flee into the rear border area where he was arrested by the East German police.

10.6.1962
A 318
Flucht,
Helmut P.



A 317: Border soldiers' pathway through the barbed wire

A 317
On New Year's Eve 1965, Hartmut B. and Günter M, two border soldiers posted at Gartenstrasse, decided to flee. They ran around the S-Bahn station entrance at Gartenstrasse, cut through the barbed wire and wire mesh fences there, and jumped down into West Berlin. Both were conscripts. B. was known for criticizing orders and had been reprimanded for this. He had also repeatedly stated that he would not shoot at fugitives. M. also had conflicts with his superiors, which they resolved by having his comrades put pressure on him. Both of them, as their supervisors had noticed, preferred reading classical literature to integrating themselves into the "collective" of the border soldiers.

A 318
Helmut P. tried to reach the West through the Sophien parish cemetery because the cemetery offered him cover. Two border soldiers at Ackerstrasse discovered him when he pulled himself up onto the cemetery wall. They called out to him to stop and both fired at him, but he was able to get over the wall. Traces of blood were found on the wall and on pieces of clothing left behind. According to information from West Berlin police, P. was injured by the shots.

24.10.1969
A 323
Fluchtversuch
und Festnahme,
Karl-Heinz Br.,
Gerd W.

A 323
Karl-Heinz Br. and Gerd W. tried to flee across the Sophien parish cemetery in October 1969. They had already passed the inner wall, whose signaling device failed, but were detected by guards on the watchtower at Ackerstrasse as they crawled through the security strip. The border soldiers opened fire at once, firing 35 shots altogether. But the fugitives, who remained uninjured, took cover behind the anti-vehicle obstacles. They were arrested there after one of the fugitives tried unsuccessfully to crawl away. According to press reports, he was struck down with the butt of a rifle. The fugitives were brought to the East German police station at Brunnenstrasse. Two bullets struck the post office at the Nordbahnhof station.

A 319
Wolfgang A. was arrested while tending to a grave at the Sophien parish cemetery because he did not have a "grave card", the special permit required to enter the cemetery.

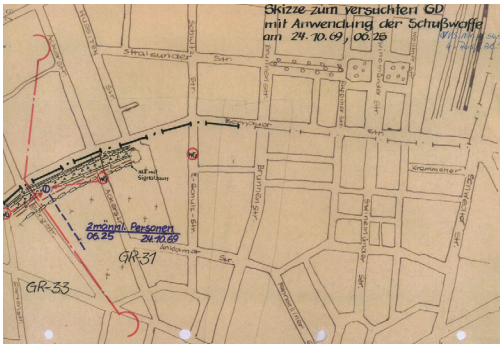
A 320
An unknown person was arrested by border soldiers while trying to escape.

A 321
Winfried T. was arrested when he wanted to visit his girlfriend at Gartenstrasse 85. The building was situated within the border territory and T. did not have the special permit required for entry. He resisted his arrest.

A 322
On October 22, 1961, the private Werner K. was assigned as dog handler to the Sophien parish cemetery where he was supposed to train his successor. K. left his comrade under a false pretext and disappeared over the Wall to West Berlin.



A 323: Traces left by the fugitives in the border strip



A 323: Sketch of the escape route

A 324
Jörg H. climbed over the cemetery wall onto the cemetery grounds at Ackerstrasse and was approaching the inner wall in the shadows of the cemetery wall when he was discovered and arrested.

A 325
From December 1964 to November 1965, just in the area between Bergstrasse and Gartenstrasse, nine people were arrested for reasons connected to the border regime.

A 326
On his birthday, May 19, 1966, Peter St. tried to reach the West from the Sophien parish cemetery. He lost his wallet, but his escape was successful, in part because the signaling device did not function. The border guards could only secure the evidence that he left behind when he

19.5.1966
A 326
Flucht,
Peter St.

crawled through the border strip. He had a draft notice in his wallet which was perhaps one reason why he wanted to escape.

A 327
Private Manfred H. was arrested by his own comrades late in the evening of June 20, 1963, because he entered the grounds of the Sophien parish cemetery without authorization and they suspected that he wanted to flee.

A 328
On June 18, 1985, three people were arrested by the East German police on Gartenstrasse near the border strip because they had wanted to escape to West Berlin.

A 329
On November 21, 1966, Dieter D. was observed by border soldiers as he climbed over the first barrier fence. He was arrested for attempting to escape.

A 330
Jaschkowitz family gravesite. The family residing at Rosenthaler Strasse 19 included two Jewish men, Max and David. Their marriage to non-Jewish women shielded them for a time from deportation and murder. They were killed in November 1943 by an Allied air raid and buried at the Sophien parish cemetery.

An exhibition of the
Berlin Wall Foundation
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