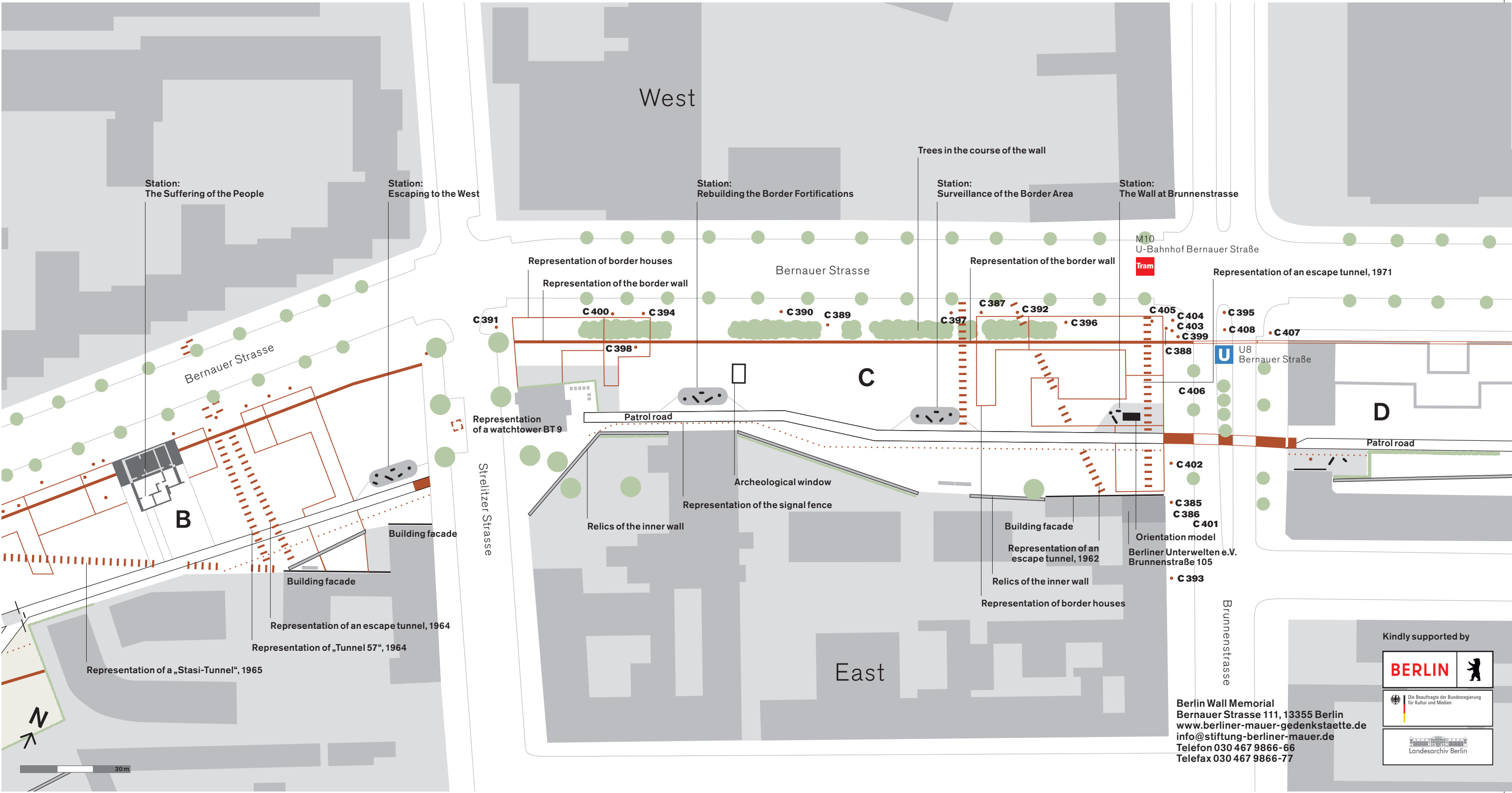
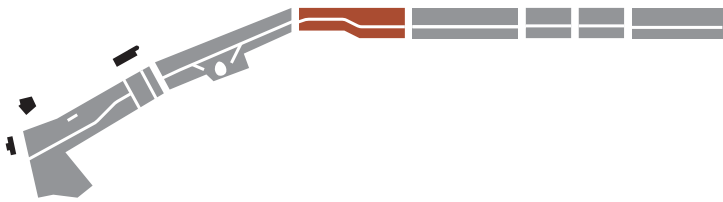


Berlin Wall Memorial
Area C:
The Building of the Wall
Orientation map
and incident markers



C 385
Gerd L. attempted to flee to the West near Brunnenstrasse on January 15, 1966. He lived near the Wall on Strelitzer Strasse. The border guards did not notice him until he was in the border strip that was under construction. The squad leader E. left the tower to intercept him and from a distance of about a hundred meters ordered him to halt. Gerd L. continued moving towards Brunnenstrasse, which led E. to fire several warning shots. Gerd L. turned around and hid in the building at Brunnenstrasse 141. The East German police pointed out Gerd L.'s hiding place to the border soldiers who were pursuing him. He was arrested on the top floor of the building and handed over to the East German police.

C 386
While thousands of people in the center of East Berlin were demonstrating for freedom and reforms on the evening of October 7, 1989, Gabriela M. tried to flee to the West at Brunnenstrasse. The young woman from Eberswalde was arrested by border troops just before midnight.

C 387
With the help of a West Berlin fire brigade, Ella K., 69 years old, fled from her first-floor apartment at Bernauer Strasse 23 just before midnight on September 11, 1961. The border guards did not notice her escape until she had made it safely to the West. They forced open the apartment door, but were unable to prevent it.

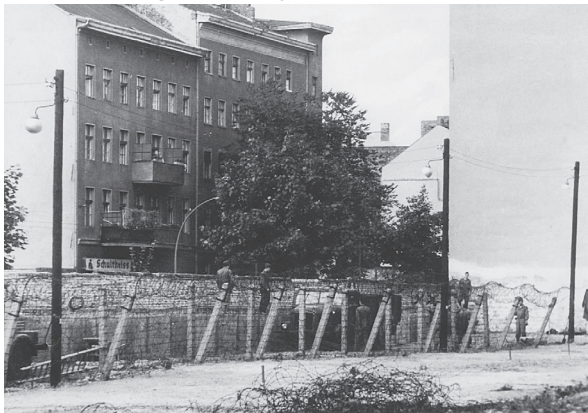
C 388
On the evening of September 17, 1961, three people fled to the West by sliding down ropes from the corner building at Brunnenstrasse 138.

17.9.1961
C 388
Flucht,
drei Personen

C 389
The East German policemen Rudolf K. and Reinhardt R. had just joined the Berlin riot police in the spring of 1961 and later had been assigned to border duty with their unit. Both men were friends of Conrad Schumann, who had jumped over the barbed wire fence on August 15. The next day they were assigned to guard the grounds of the Kobold factory near Bernauer Strasse 19. The buildings here had been destroyed during the war which is why a rather low wall stood on the border there. At midnight when the new guards arrived for the next shift, a comrade discovered that both men had disappeared. The border guards were unable to establish why and how Rudolf K. and Reinhardt R. were able to get to the West.

C 390
A second wall made of concrete plates was built on September 4, 1963 to reinforce the Berlin Wall between Bernauer Strasse 17 and 22. Private Jürgen Cr., a conscript, had been transferred from the riot police of Zwickau to guard duty at the Wall. He and five other border soldiers were assigned to guard the pioneers working at the construction site. Cr. and another guard posted themselves by the newly erected wall. When the second guard left to get cigarettes, Jürgen Cr. jumped over the front wall to the West and disappeared into a building on the other side of the street.

C 390: Site of Jürgen Cr.'s escape



C 391
An unknown person used a ladder to flee over the Wall at Strelitzer Strasse on September 22, 1961.

C 392
The D. family fled to the West from their first-floor apartment at Bernauer Strasse 23 on October 16, 1961. The decision to flee and the escape plans had been made long in advance. When the border guards broke into the apartment after the escape, they found that "all valuables and clothes of value" were missing. At around 12:30 p.m. a truck had pulled up in front of the house and the couple and their 15-year-old son jumped onto its tarp. They were joined by another couple, friends who had already been evicted from their apartment on Swinemünder Strasse.

C 393
In the area of Brunnenstrasse alone, eight people were arrested between December 1964 and November 1965 in connection with the border regime.

C 394
Just past midnight on September 23, 1961, an unknown man jumped to the West from the second-story window of a building at Bernauer Strasse 16.

C 395
For ten days after the Wall was built, Brunnenstrasse was still a border crossing. An ambulance traveling from east to west passed it around about 2:30 a.m. on August 14, 1961. The accompanying physician, Dr. G., used



C 387 and C 392:
Escape from Bernauer Strasse 23

this opportunity to flee and did not return to the eastern part of the city.

C 396
Max W. slid down a rope from his first-floor apartment at Bernauer Strasse 24 on August 24, 1961. When the rope broke, he crashed to the pavement. The West Berlin police immediately took him away in an ambulance.

C 397
In 1962 and 1963, side and back buildings adjoined to the border houses were torn down. Border soldiers kept surveillance on construction workers assigned to the demolition work. The truck driver Günter P. arrived at the construction site at the Kobold factory on July 2, 1962. As another truck was maneuvering through the narrow driveway and the border guards' view was blocked, he climbed over the Wall next to the building at Bernauer Strasse 23. Two women working in the Kobold plant observed the escape and informed a construction worker who notified a border guard that P. had "taken off". By then, however, Günter P. had safely reached the West.

C 398
On the evening of March 21, 1970, a 22-year-old man climbed over the inner wall on Strelitzer Strasse to get to West Berlin. He crept along the front of the

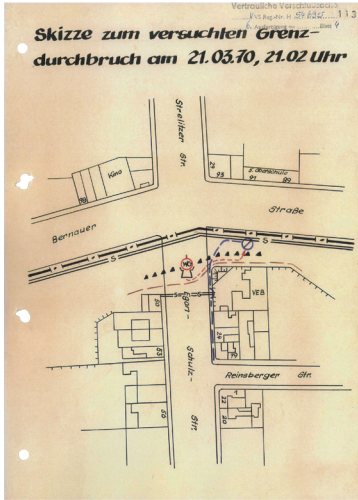
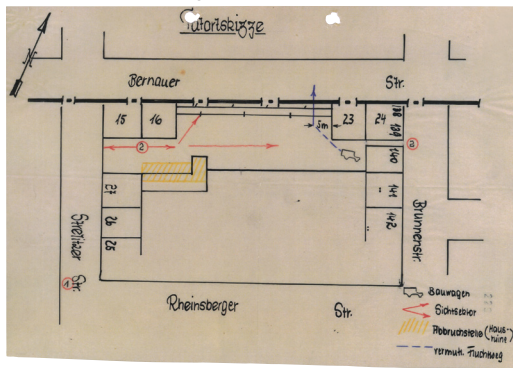
building and crossed the patrol path towards the border wall. The border guards on the watchtower at Strelitzer Strasse did not notice him until he had passed the anti-vehicle obstacles and was standing directly in front of the Wall. When the border guards called out to him, he ran along the Wall away from the tower. Firing two shots, one of which hit his leg, they were able to prevent his escape. The man was brought to the Police Hospital and handed over to the secret police.

C 399
After the Wall was built, renovation work begun in the border houses was continued. A painter working at Brunnenstrasse 139, a building that stood right behind the Wall, took advantage of the situation. On August 23, 1961, he ran from the building entrance towards the Wall that was approximately four meters away and jumped over it.

C 400
On September 24, 1961 a man was able to escape from the second story of the building at Bernauer Strasse 16. The man jumped into the rescue net of the fire department.

C 401
After the Wall fell on November 9, 1989, the borders to West Berlin were open to all citizens. But for a time the regulations of the border regime in East Berlin remained in effect. As a result, early in the morning of November 11, 1989, border guards arrested two people found in the border area near Brunnenstrasse.

C 397: Sketch of escape route



C 398: Sketch of escape attempt

C 402
Frank K. applied for an exit visa in March 1984. But he continued to look for ways to escape. He had been working in a factory on Brunnenstrasse since early 1986. He probably used this opportunity to gather information about the border fortifications there. On January 27, 1986, he finally made the decision to escape and began making preparations: He obtained tools and for camouflage wore two pairs of pants so that he could switch them. He climbed over the inner wall without being noticed, but was arrested by border guards when he tried to climb over the signal fence. They handed him over to the East German police.

11.11.1989
C 401
Festnahme,
zwei Personen

C 403
Bernd Sp. fled in the evening or night of November 22, 1961, unnoticed by the border guards. He approached the border from the grounds of the Kobold factory and reached the backyard of Brunnenstrasse 139. With the help of a door that was slanted ajar, he was able to get over the backyard property wall and found himself standing right behind the border wall. From there he was able to climb over to the West unnoticed, but he left his briefcase behind. The border guards found it the next morning and together with the East German police were able to reconstruct the escape route and identity of the man who had fled.

C 404
On the evening of November 19, 1986, Dieter H. was able to flee to the West from Brunnenstrasse. The toolmaker had made a small extension ladder that he used to climb over the inner wall. Using a bolt clipper he cut through the signal fence. Although the signal fence and a signal device installed on the inner wall were triggered, the border guards did not notice him until he had almost reached the border wall. Dieter H. leaned the ladder against it and was able to climb over uninjured although guards on Kremmener Strasse fired a total of twelve shots at him. The border guards on the Strelitzer Strasse watchtower did not shoot. Dieter H. broke both his heels when he jumped down from the Wall. He was taken away in an ambulance.

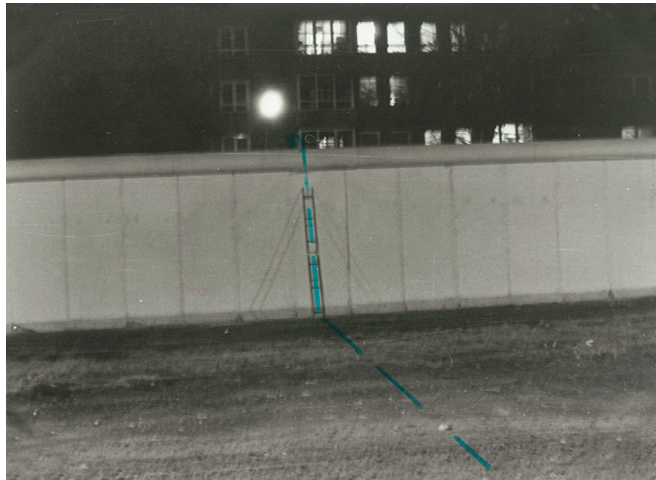
Before he escaped, Dieter H. had applied to the East German authorities for an exit visa, but his request was rejected. He served a two-year prison sentence for political reasons. After his release he decided to flee to the West.

C 405
An unknown man was able to escape to the West at Brunnenstrasse on July 24, 1984. He used a ladder to climb over the inner wall. When he cut through the signal fence he set off an alarm. The border guard on the watchtower at Schönholzer Strasse fired a warning shot before shooting at the fleeing man. The shot missed him and the man was able to get over the border wall uninjured.

C 406
A man was arrested while trying to flee at Brunnenstrasse around 3:20 a.m. on July 23, 1971. The border guards were able to prevent the escape by shooting at the man.

C 407
On November 4, 1961, three border guards stood together at Brunnenstrasse approximately forty meters from the Wall, leaving the fortifications unguarded. Günter A. seized the opportunity and ran from the grounds of the Kobold factory towards the Wall. When he reached the first fence, eight meters in front of the Wall, he was discovered by the guards who ordered him to halt. He climbed over the barrier and started to climb over the border wall when the guards opened fire on him. Two of them fired several shots from their machine pistols. The fugitive had almost managed to climb over the Wall when he was hit by a salvo. He fell onto the

C 404: Dieter H.'s escape



east side but was able to get back up and climb up again. He fell onto the west side with his hands up. Günter A. was promptly taken away in an ambulance.

C 408
After the Wall was built, a border crossing continued to exist on Brunnenstrasse until August 23, 1961. Two men wearing postal service uniforms reported to the checkpoint on August 18, 1961, claiming that they needed to inspect the cables directly on the border. The border guards let the two men pass. When the two men had gotten beyond the checkpoint, they jumped on their bikes and rode to West Berlin.

Escape Tunnels
Two escape tunnels were located in exhibition area C, one from 1962 and one from 1971. Both were built from West Berlin to East Berlin, but the escape agents were not able to use either one. The tunnel builders were worried that the first one had been discovered. The secret police had, in fact, come upon the tunnel. The second and final tunnel built in the border strip on Bernauer Strasse was located by the secret police using listening devices after it had received a tip. The border troops dug up the tunnel. The secret police was able to identify and arrest most of the people who had planned to flee through the tunnel.

23.7.1971
C 406
Fluchtversuch
und Festnahme,
eine Person

Credits:
C 390
Border troop photo,
Bundesarchiv Militärarchiv
C 387, C 392
Photographer not known,
Gedenkstätte Berliner
Mauer
C 397
Bundesarchiv Militärarchiv
C 398
Bundesarchiv Militärarchiv
C 404
Border troop photo,
Bundesarchiv Militärarchiv

An exhibition of the
Berlin Wall Foundation
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Exhibition design
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