

Berlin calendar 1947-1949

- Jan 47 Bizonia
- 19 Jan 47 Elections in Poland
- 26 Feb 47 Hungary: Bela Kovacs, Secretary-General of the Smallholders Party, arrested and never seen again.
- July 47 Rumania: Juliu Maniu, leader of the National Peasant Party, arrested and sentenced to solitary confinement for life.
- 23 Sep 47 Bulgaria: Nikola Petrov, leader of the Agrarian Union, (arrested in June), tried & executed.
- Oct 47 Poland: Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, leader of the Peasant Party and deputy Prime Minister until January, flees after being warned of his impending arrest.
- Oct 47 Operation Bird Dog begins: US Bureau of Engraving and Printing begins producing new deutsche marks and secretly shipping them to Germany where they are concealed in the vaults of the old Reichsbank building in Frankfurt.
- 25 Nov 47 London conference of four foreign ministers
- 19 Dec 47 Communist-dominated CGT union group splits and five union leaders set up the rival Force Ouvriere.
- Xmas 47 Greece: CP proclaims a Provisional Government
- Spring 48 Trucks back up to the Reichsbank building and load cases marked "Bird Dog" full of the new currency for distribution all over the western trizone.
- 15 Feb 48 US&UK set up Bank deutscher Lander.
- 23 Feb to 5 March India House conference agrees to form a German assembly.
French join Bank.
- 25 Feb 48 Communist coup in Czechoslovakia
- 10 Mar 48 Jan Masaryk found dead
- 17 Mar 48 Treaty of Brussels signed
- 20 Mar 48 Sokolovsky walks out of Allied Control Council (in protest at India House

conference)

- 26 Mar 48 Pieck tells Stalin SED will lose October election in Berlin
- 31 Mar 48 Soviet restrictions on Allied traffic to Berlin
- 1 Apr 48 Trains stopped
- 3 Apr 48: Truman signs the Marshall Plan into law.
- ? Apr 48 Italian General Election disappoints communists
- 4 May 48 Ambassador Smith meets w Stalin
- 14/15 May UK mandate over Palestine expires
- 28 May 48 New central bank announced for the Soviet zone; everyone assumes this presages new Eastern zone currency.
- 11 Jun 48 All trains stopped. Berlin faces starvation.
- 16 Jun 48 Howley walks out of a Kommandatura meeting
- 18 Jun 48 New currency announced for west Germany, effective 20 Jun (Sunday).
- Date? Western sectors of Berlin are secretly stocked with 250 million new deutsche marks (specially marked with a B for Berlin). Parrish (p165) says this took place "several days earlier" than the 23 June showdown meeting. Collier (p43) says the notes were flown in on 23 June. Tusa (p135) says they were already in Berlin by the second week of June.
- 22 Jun 48 9pm Soviets announce Ostmark to be sole Berlin currency in all sectors
- 23 Jun 48 3pm: branch managers of the Stadkontor bank in West Berlin are summoned to the sector's head office in Steglitz. There they are given cartons of deutsche marks and driven, in British army trucks, back to their branches.

4pm: Berlin city council assembles in the Stadhus and (after 2 hours of chaos) refuses to ratify the Russian currency.

8pm Radio announcement of deutsche mark convertibility in Berlin from 25 June.

11pm Soviet news agency A.D.N. announces blockade beginning 6am tomorrow.
- 24 Jun 48: Blockade of Berlin

- 25 Jun 48 Deutsche marks introduced to Berlin.
 Bevin & Brownjohn report to UK cabinet
- 26 Jun 48 Twenty-five C47 planes arrive Tempelhof with eighty tons of milk, flour
 and medicine.
- 28 Jun 48 Cominform expels Yugoslav Communist Party but, to Stalin's surprise,
 Tito defies him.
- 12 May 49 Blockade lifted
- Aug 49 Elections in West Germany