



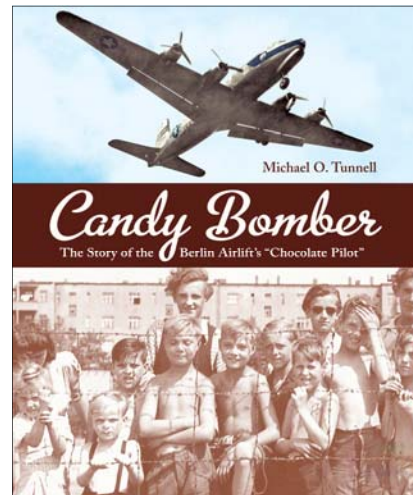
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Candy Bomber

The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"

Michael O. Tunnell



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Ages 9–12 • 7¾ x 9 • 120 pages

Black-and-white photographs

A moving and true story of life after war.

In 1945 Germany fell to the Allied powers at the end of World War II. The United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union divided up the country, and likewise the capital city of Berlin, into four occupation zones. The Soviets decided to distance themselves from the Allied forces. They blocked off West Berlin and stopped all food shipments in the hopes of driving the Allies out of Berlin altogether. But the Allies dropped supplies by plane into the city. One pilot, after a brief encounter with several German children living in war-torn Berlin, began to drop candy and gum into the city, bringing the children not only a little joy, but a great deal of hope. He was known to the children as “Uncle Wiggly Wings,” because he’d signal their treats by wiggling the wings of his plane when he flew over with supplies.

What began as a one-time gesture of compassion turned into an official U.S. Air Force operation. “Operation Little Vittles” grew, as more and more pilots volunteered to drop the parachutes, and donations of candy and cloth poured in from all over. This inspiring story of one man’s contribution to the rebuilding of a country after war is a unique look at history.

Illustrated with archival photographs, personal photographs from Lt. Gail Halvorsen—the Chocolate Pilot—letters, and documents, *Candy Bomber* is an important and interesting addition to studies of World War II.

Michael O. Tunnell is a professor of children’s literature who has twice served on the Newbery committee. He is the author of Mailing May (HarperCollins), The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp Based on a Classroom Diary (Holiday House), and other books. He lives in Orem, Utah.

To receive a review copy or to arrange an interview with Michael Tunnell or Gail Halvorsen, please contact Donna Spurlock at (617) 926-0329, ext. 122, or via email at dspurlock@charlesbridge.com.