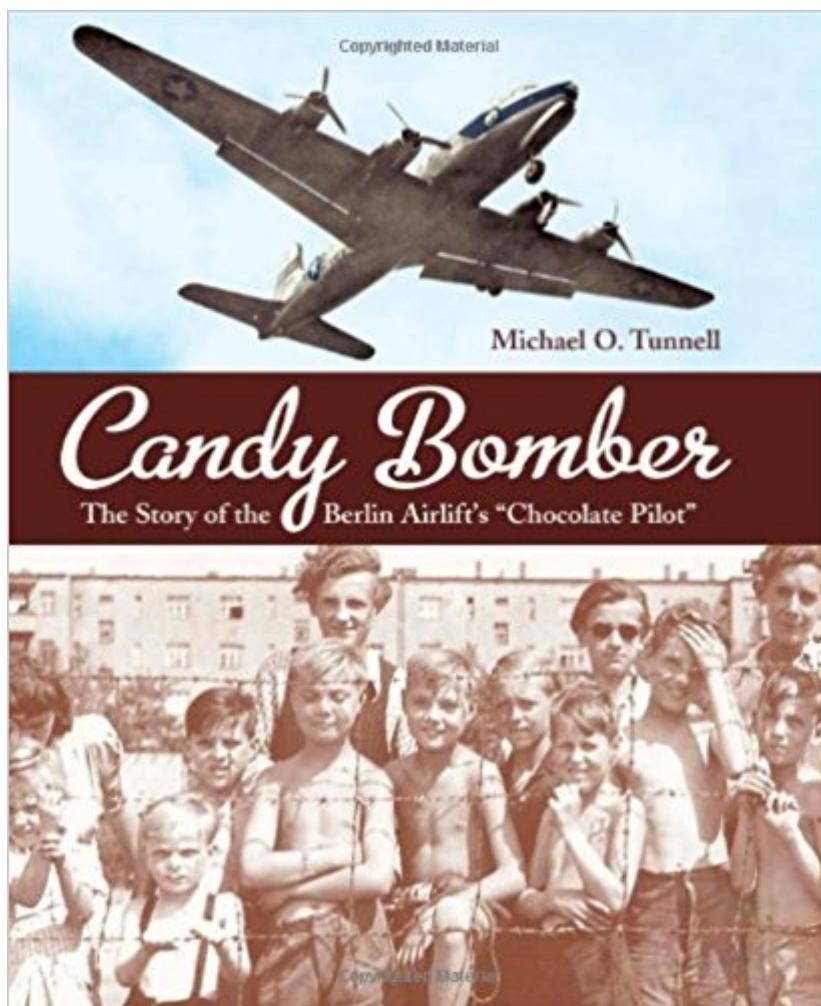


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# Candy Bomber: The Story Of The Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"



## **Synopsis**

After World War II the United States and Britain airlifted food and supplies into Russian-blockaded West Berlin. US Air Force Lieutenant Gail S. Halvorsen knew the children of the city were suffering. To lift their spirits, he began dropping chocolate and gum by parachute. Michael O. Tunnell tells an inspiring tale of candy and courage, illustrated with Lt. Halvorsen's personal photographs, as well as letters and drawings from the children of Berlin to their beloved "Uncle Wiggly Wings."

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 90 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 4-6 Tunnell brings to life a little-known post-World War II story. What started as a single pilot's car tour of bombed-out Berlin turned into an international campaign to help lighten the suffering of the children of West Berlin. The time was 1948, and the Soviet Union had closed all land access to the isolated Free World sectors of West Berlin in an attempt to starve the people into accepting Communist rule. On an impulse, a C-54 cargo pilot, Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen, shared the only two sticks of gum he had with a group of about 30 children. What started as a somewhat clandestine candy-dropping operation by Halvorsen and his buddies eventually became a USAF-sanctioned operation. As the airlift of food and fuel continued for almost two years, tons of candy were dropped (using tiny parachutes) for the children who waited in the flight path below. The

text is liberally illustrated with black-and-white photos, copies of letters, and a diagram of how the flight patterns worked. Endpapers contain color reproductions of a few of the many pieces of children's artwork that Halvorsen received as the Chocolate Pilot, Uncle Wiggly Wings, and Dear Onkl of the Heaven. Vocabulary is relatively easy, but adequate for the topic, which makes the text flow easily. The book concludes with extensive biographical, historical, and author's notes. This is a real treat a World War II title with a happy ending. Make it a first purchase. Eldon Younce, formerly at Harper Elementary School, KS Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*Starred Review\* Curious about the city into which he ferried goods during the Berlin Airlift in 1948, pilot Gail Halvorsen stayed over to visit, met some children, and offered to drop candy and gum when he next flew over. This simple idea grew into a massive project with reverberations today. Tunnell tells this appealing story of a cold war soldier who made a difference clearly and chronologically, weaving in just enough background for twenty-first-century readers and illustrating almost every page with black-and-white photographs, many from Halvorsen's own collection. Opening the book with a shot of a nine-year-old boy looking for the plane that will wiggle its wings, the author captures young readers with the very idea of the chocolate pilot and keeps them with a steady focus on the German young people, including their letters and drawings. He concludes with a chapter describing Halvorsen's successful military career, his meetings with children who caught the candy, an anniversary drop, and moreâ "highly satisfactory results from his spontaneous good deed. Halvorsen contributes a prologue; biographical, historical, and research notes add information; and selected references, including further-reading suggestions (though no source notes), close out this accessible and positive portrayal of a serviceman who wasn't on the battlefield. Irresistible. Grades 4-7. --Kathleen Isaacs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My favorite of all the Candy Bomber books, although I like them all. Gail Halvorsen's autobiography provides lots of details while Tom Brokaw's account is brief and includes a DVD meeting with Halvorsen. Mercedes and the Chickens is a personalized account of one little girl who waited for the candy deliveries. But Tunnell's book seems more focused. It's readable by young people yet it provides the details an older person might want. If you're only going to buy one book on the Candy Bomber of Berlin, this is the one to choose.

I gave this as a gift to an older gentleman who likes to read informative and inspiring military stories that aren't too long or have too small of a print. He read it and allowed others to borrow it who also enjoyed it. This was a good telling of a popular story.

This book portrays the essence of what it means to be an American service man or women during wartime. Col. Gail Halvorsen, the Chocolate Pilot and his fellow airmen at Tempelhof Central Airport in Germany, made a difference in the lives of the children of war-torn Berlin during WW2. Col. Halvorsen is alive and well today (Dec 2014) and 91 years young. This story makes me proud to have served over 22 years with the United States Air Force. Reading it may cause you to shed a few tears!

It was one of the lists for my daughter's "Battle of Books" competition for high elementary school graders.

this is a great book of part of the Berlin airlift, it is truely a great story of a great person that went out of his way to drop candy to the children of east Berlin by small parachutes and occationally dropping candy to the children in west Berlin until Gale Havelson was told that he couldn't drop any more candy to the east Berlin side but he did drop candy any way and he told the brass that the wind can take it any way it wants to. The story is based upon this great pilot and the people all over this great country that supported him in the canndy drop but making small parachutes and collecting candy for the drops

What an incredible story of a very special man. There are still some good people in the world. I think God is keeping a special eye on this man because he is in his 90's and still alive. The letters and pictures from the German children are very special. Then to see these children grow up and meet the Candy Bomber is also well worth the read.

Read this book when it was first published and enjoyed it immensely. Gave it as a gift this Christmas to a 17 year old grandson. One of the most unusual and fascinating stories of the stunts Stalin pulled and how we fought!

Everyone loved this book that I gave a copy to. On Christmas Eve I was driving into work, I am a nurse working night shift. Did I really wan to work on Christmas eve??? But on KYW our local radio

station they were telling the story about the Candy Bomber, what a great story, After I got done crying I went into work with a very positive attitude. I went home the next morning to order this book.

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