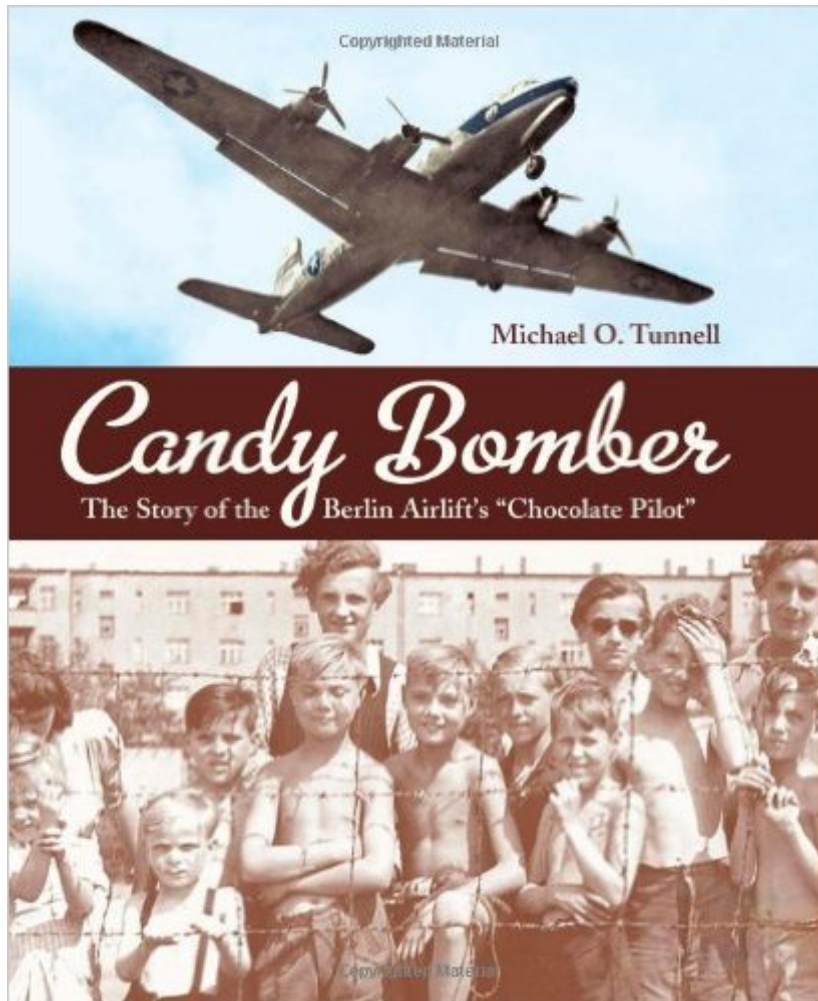


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# Candy Bomber: The Story Of The Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"



## 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

Lexile Measure: 1130L (What's this?)

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (July 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580893376

ISBN-13: 978-1580893374

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (78 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe](#) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Michael O. Tunnell's inspirational account of how one person can make a difference in the world. Tunnell tells the story of U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen, who was one of a group of U.S. and British pilots transporting food to the citizens of West Berlin in 1948 during the Soviet blockade of West Berlin. Tunnell provides concise and well-written background on what happened in Germany at the end of the war and how this blockade came about in the first place. When Halvorsen first encounters the children of West Berlin, he is struck by their dignity and their commitment to freedom. After briefly conversing with a group of children on the other side of the airfield fence, he decides, on a whim, to give the children the two sticks of Doublemint gum in his pocket. Breaking them in half, he is sure that a fight over the four little sticks

will break out among the candy-starved children. Instead, he is astonished to see that there was no fighting. Suddenly, Halvorsen had an inspiration; why not drop some gum and candy on his next trip to Berlin? He told the delighted children of his plan, and they asked how they would recognize his plane. Halvorsen explained that he'd give them a signal--"When I get overhead, I'll wiggle the wings."Halvorsen began his drops by asking his buddies to donate their personal candy rations, rations that were as valuable as currency in Germany. Not asking permission of his superiors, Halvorsen started his candy drops, using handkerchiefs to make parachutes in order to drop the candy in small packages. Soon mail began to pour in for Uncle Wiggly Wings or the Chocolate Pilot, and Halvorsen's superiors discovered his secret.

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