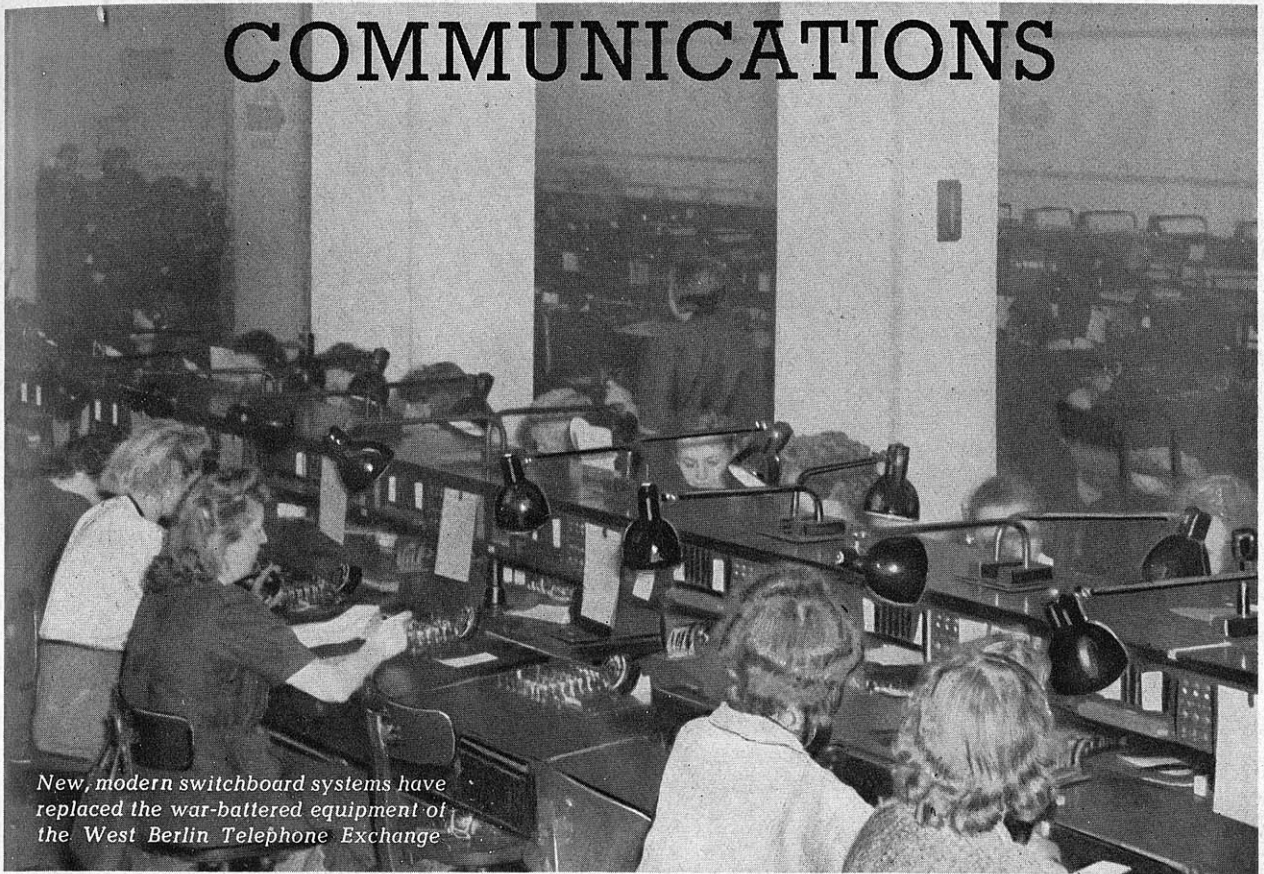


COMMUNICATIONS



New, modern switchboard systems have replaced the war-battered equipment of the West Berlin Telephone Exchange

On the arrival of U.S. Military Government in Berlin on July 4, 1945, the communications picture of the city was very disheartening. Of the 28 telephone exchanges in the U.S. Sector, none was in operation due to bomb damage or the physical removal of their equipment by the Russians.

All post offices were closed and mail service could not be resumed until the Allied Kommandatura had authorized a new series of stamps.

Transportation of the *Reichspost* was non-existent. Many former post office employees, in both technical and postal fields, had either fled before the Russians or were considered nominal Nazis and, therefore, could not be employed.

Thus, the communications of the largest city in Europe were completely paralyzed. The initial job given the Communications Branch was to re-establish communications in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the city government and essential industries for maintaining the bare necessities of life in Berlin.

POSTAL SERVICE

In the initial stage of the Occupation, postal facilities in the U.S. Sector included a large parcel post office (SW 77, located in Schöneberg) and eight branch post offices, which could be put into immediate operation.

It was then necessary that the *Reichspost* be reorganized for the resumption of postal service in the city. Designs of a temporary "Stadt Berlin" postage stamp were approved by the PTT Committee of the Allied Kommandatura.

On August 2, 1945, postal service was inaugurated within the city. This service was limited to postcards and unsealed letters.

On October 15, 1945, a further step was made to expand the postal services of the city. The Allied Kommandatura on this date authorized postal service to be resumed between Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Occupation.

Interzonal Service Begun

On October 24th the Allied Control Council authorized the inauguration of interzonal postal service to all four zones of Germany, permitting postcards and letters up to 500 grams to be accepted and delivered.

Thus, by the end of 1945 postal services were beginning to operate on a limited scale, meeting the minimum necessities of the city. As this extension of service to all four zones of Germany was made effective, the volume of mail increased steadily, with the greatest portion of mail being handled between Berlin and the Soviet Zone.

As the *Reichspost* neared the end of its first year of operation, the postal department found itself beginning to function in a smooth and efficient manner and, consequently, was able to handle an average of 250,000 outgoing letters daily, as well as to receive some 200,000.

Physical Problems Hamper Work

Internal difficulties at this time in the physical delivery of mail, as well as its collection, however, were beginning to interfere seriously. The post

GERMAN LETTER MAIL West Sectors (Monthly)



office had a total of 175 vehicles at this time. Of this number, nearly one-third were without tires. The remaining 125 were operating on an allocation of 4,500 liters of gasoline per month. This amount constituted approximately one-half of what was considered necessary.

Consequently, delays in the delivery of mail to and from the western zones amounted to some 30 days, while the delivery of local mail was often delayed six or seven days.

In January, 1947, the Control Council opened gift parcel service to all of Germany that permitted a large volume of overseas gift parcels, which were being held in the port of Bremen, to be delivered to Berlin. Parcel post service in general had grown by this time to a point where the Berlin post office was handling approximately 30,000 parcels daily.

The question of stamps, however, was beginning to cause considerable trouble, as the postage stamp being used by the Berlin *Reichspost* was a temporary one and the question of a permanent stamp was still under consideration by the Control Council. On March 1, 1947, a permanent issue of stamps was approved by the Control Council and placed on sale.

Soviet Obstruction Tactics

The PTT Committee of the Allied Kommandatura had achieved an exceptional record of unanimity with regard to postal services until this time. However, it became obvious that the comparative harmony of the committee was coming to an end.

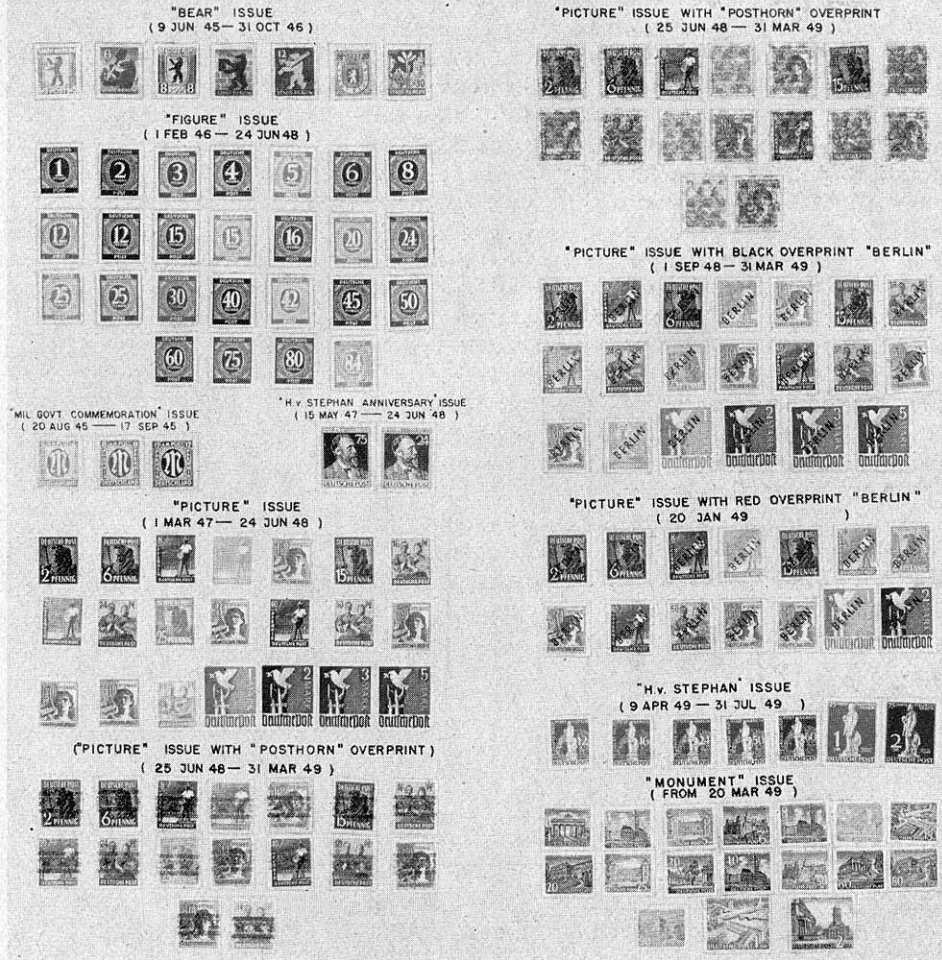
The Soviet delegates became more and more persistent in placing matters on the agenda such as a request for a special issue of stamps for the "Women's Congress for Peace", a communist organization, and a proposal to turn over all undeliverable gift parcels to the Central Welfare Organization, which had Soviet zonal implications and, therefore, was communist-dominated.

This was the beginning of the political invasion of the *Reichspost* and the PTT Committee of the Kommandatura. Such efforts were to become more and more intense as time went on.

In November, 1947, the Soviet military authorities issued an order blocking the accounts in the post-check office, located in the Soviet Sector, of many banks in the U.S. and British Zones. The immediate loss to the *Reichspost* amounted to some 17 million *Reichsmark*.

At this time also, the *Reichsbahn* under the control of the Soviet Military Administration

BERLIN STAMP ISSUES



refused to provide necessary rail cars to transport parcels to the West, resulting in a continuing backlog of parcels which by April, 1948, amounted to some 450,000 parcels held in SW 77 Post Office, pending shipment to the western zones. These parcels at the beginning of the Berlin blockade were still retained by the Berlin Reichspost.

Parcel Post via Air Lift

The Allied Kommandatura at this time instructed the PTT Department to deliver parcels to Tempelhof and Gatow airports to be airlifted to the western zones. By the end of July, 1948, the parcel backlog had been cleared and deliveries of parcels to the western zones were made daily via the Air Lift. The Soviet military authorities during this period established a parcel post office within the Soviet Sector, and in press announcements informed the Berlin population that their parcels could be posted there to the Soviet and western zones.

Pilferage and censorship, however, as well as delays of sometimes 35 to 40 days, convinced the Berliners that no confidence could be placed in the Soviet postal administration of the east sector and zone.

Postal service from the western zones to Berlin, nonetheless, was becoming extremely difficult. The

counter-blockade by the western zone administrations prohibited the forwarding of parcel post or first-class mail through the Soviet Zone. This resulted in the suspension of parcel post service to Berlin from the West.

First class mail was flown to Berlin by an American commercial airline after having been surcharged for air postage in the western zones. This situation continued until approximately May 25, 1949. At that time the blockade was lifted and service by rail was resumed temporarily.

Rail Strike Blocks Deliveries

As the subsequent Berlin railway strike progressed (see *Manpower*), the Reichsbahn refused to accept postal cars from the Reichspost for dispatch to the western zones. This constituted in effect a resumption of the blockade in so far as postal matters were concerned. On July 1, 1949, at which time the Berlin railway strike was settled, postal services could not be resumed by railway.

Until the present time parcel post, as well as first class mail, has been carried via Air Lift to the western zones. This situation, however, will be changed, in order that the Air Lift burden be reduced to a minimum.

POSTAL SERVICE

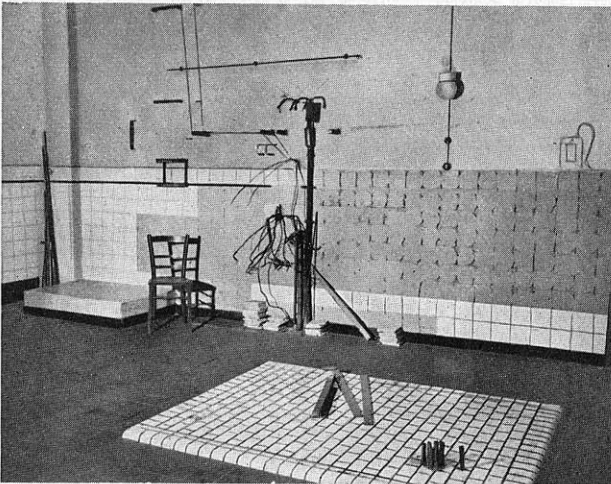
Types of Service in Effect 1938	Service Limitation up to:	Services to Soviet Zone Now in Effect	Service Limitation	Effective Date opened	Services to Western Zones Now in Effect	Service Limitation	Effective Date opened	International Services Now in Effect	Service Limitation	Effective Date opened
Letters	1000g	Letters	500g	2.8.45. 15.10.45.	Letters	1000g	24.10.45. 15.2.47	Letters	20g	1.4.46.
Postcards		Postcards		2.8.45.	Postcards	1000g	24.10.45.	"	500g	1.2.47.
Printed Matters	500g	Printed Matters	500g	15.10.45	Printed Matters	500g	24.10.45	Picture Postcards		15.6.47
Printed Matters (bulk)	500g	Printed Matters (bulk)		1.3.47.	Printed Matters (bulk)		1.3.47	Business Correspondence		15.6.47.
Printed Paper & Samples	500g									
Braille	5kg.	Braille	1000g	15.1.47	Braille	1000g	15.1.47.	Braille (Correspondence)	500g	15.5.47.
		"	5kg.	25.3.47		5kg.	25.3.47	" other Matter	5kg	12.6.47
Commercial Papers	500g			15.10.45			10.11.45			
Samples	500g	Samples	500g	15.10.45.	Samples	500g	24.10.45	Letters	2kg.	15.9.47.
Grouped Articles	500g	Grouped Articles	500g	15.10.45.	Grouped Articles	500g	24.10.45			
Small Packets	2kg.	Small Packets	2kg.	16.5.46	Small Packets	500g	15.5.47	Registered Mail		1.1.48.
Parcels	20kg	Parcels	5kg	16.5.46	"	1000g	15.2.47	Parcels	1kg	1.1.48
		"	7kg.	15.5.47	Parcels	7kg.	15.5.47			
Urgent Parcels	20kg.									
Registered Mail		Registered Mail is admitted		2.8.45.	Registered Mail is admitted		2.8.45			
Insured Mail	no Limits	Insured Mail	1000g. 1000 RM.	5.7.46.	Insured Mail	1000g 500 RM.	1.1.48			
Money Orders	1000RM.	Money Orders	1000-RM.	22.11.45.						
Telegraph Money Orders	unlimited									
Postal Collecting Orders	1000-RM	Postal Collecting Orders	1000-RM	15.10.45.						
C.O.D.	1000-RM	C.O.D.	1000-RM	15.10.45.						
Railway Letters	1000g									
Railways Newspapers	20kg.	Newspapers	20kg.	14.11.45		20 Kg	15.9.47			
Postal Trav. Checks	2500-RM									
Express Mail					Express Mail		25.10.45.			
Letters with Notice of Delivery	1000g.	Letters with Receipt	1000g	15.10.45.	Letters with Receipt	1000g.	24.9.46			
Advices of Delivery of		Advices of Delivery of Parcels			Advices of Delivery of Parcels					
Parcels insured, Registered Mail	1000g	insured, Registered Mail		15.10.45	insured, Registered Mail		10.2.47.			
Pneumatic-Tube Mail	for Berlin 20g									
Air Mail	unlimited									
Newspapers handed over to the Posts for Despatch		Newspapers handed over to the Posts for Despatch	1kg.	1.11.45	Newspapers handed over to the Posts for Despatch		15.9.47.			
Postal Check Service		Postal Check Sv.		7.3.46						
Deposits made by Paying in Slips	unlimited									
Payments by P.O. Order	unlimited			15.6.45						
Transfers from one Postal Check Account	unlimited									
Valuable Letters		Valuable Letters and	1kg. 1000-RM.	5.7.46	Valuable Letters	500-RM	1.1.48			
Gift Parcels		Gift Parcels	10kg	15.6.47						

With the exception of some international services, most pre-war postal facilities have been restored in Berlin. The bulk of restoration was carried out during the first two years of the Allied Occupation.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Upon the arrival of Military Government in Berlin, the immediate problem of the provision of telecommunications to military organizations and the Military Government Headquarters located in Berlin was pressing.

Military equipment designed for use under combat conditions could no longer care for the increased requirements placed upon these organizations. Therefore, the *Reichspost* was instructed to establish a telephone exchange to be used solely by the Occupying Powers.



An empty telephone power room, stripped by the Russians of its generator and power board for reparations.

Another pressing problem presented to Military Government was one of providing telephone communications to a city of 3,500,000 people scattered over an area of 880 square kilometers.

The *Reichspost* was instructed to begin immediate work upon the five remaining intact dial units in the U.S. Sector that could be placed in operation with a minimum of delay.

A priority list of those persons to receive the service was established by the Allied Kommandatura. This relatively crude priority list was used as a yardstick for the processing of telephone applications, of which thousands were received daily.

By the 1st of January, 1946, there was a total of 5,000 telephones installed in the U.S. Sector, as compared to approximately 200,000 telephones installed in 1939 in the same area.

Interzonal Service Prepared

Interzonal telephone service at this time was under discussion by the Allied Control Council, and the civilian long distance central office located in the U.S. Sector was being prepared for operation. Proposals for interzonal telephone circuits to all four zones of Germany had been forwarded to the Control Council for consideration.

Interzonal telephone service from the Berlin *Fernamt* was actually opened to the Berlin population on February 7, 1946. The first circuits established led to the Soviet Zone. Immediately afterwards,

circuits to the western zones in limited numbers were authorized and installed.

The *Fernamt* building, which had been utilized for the past several months as a military switching central for telecommunications terminating in Berlin, was in very bad condition due to bombings and, therefore, a major reconstruction program was necessary to place this building in condition for operations.

In July, 1946, the Allied Kommandatura considered a general reconstruction program for telephone service, in order to provide a minimum amount of communications necessary for the efficient operation of the city. This amounted to an increase of some 20,000 telephone installations and simultaneously a general rehabilitation of the city's telephone cable network.

Special Dial Exchange Installed

As of July 1, 1947, there were approximately 100,000 telephones installed in the city, of which some 45,000 were located in the U.S. Sector.

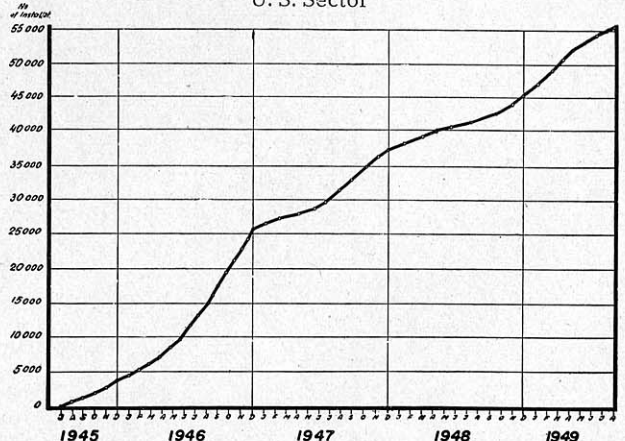
At this time, due to the need of expanding civilian communications facilities, the U.S. Army installed an internal dial telephone network in the form of four small dial exchanges, thus permitting the service to the Berlin population to be expanded by 6,000 additional telephones.

During the remaining part of the year 1947, telephone service in Berlin remained fairly constant in that no additional interzonal trunk circuits were provided and, therefore, interzonal services could not be expanded. Local services continued to expand as a result of deliveries of telephone instruments by manufacturing firms in the city.

This state of comparative harmony was upset about January, 1948, when the Soviet communications office authorized all subscribers within the Soviet Sector equal priority with those of the three western sectors for placing interzonal telephone calls. This superimposed a great burden on the already overcrowded long-distance office, and thereby paved the way for a split in the city's interzonal service.

During 1948, telephone service in general progressed very smoothly and the *Reichspost* was able to

GERMAN TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS
U. S. Sector



LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE

over Fernamt Berlin Tel.Nr. 00

INLAND-AND ABROAD SERVICE

	Service to Soviet Zone. Now in Effect	Effective Date opened	Service to Western Zone. Now in Effect	Effective Date opened	International Services Now in Effect	Effective Date opened
Special Conversations	Special Conversations		Special Conversations			
<i>Urgent State Conversations (SD)</i>	<i>Urgent State Conversations</i>	26. 11. 47	<i>Urgent State Calls</i>	26. 11. 47	<i>International Telephone Service</i>	1. 2. 48
• <i>Service</i> • • (AD)	• <i>Service</i> • •	26. 11. 47			(with exception of Spain and Japan)	
• <i>Air</i> • • (L)	• <i>Air</i> • •	26. 11. 47	<i>Aviation Calls</i>	26. 11. 47		
• <i>Press</i> • • (DP)						
<i>Ordinary Service Conversations (A)</i>	<i>Ordinary Service Conversations</i>	31. 1. 47	<i>Ordinary Service Conversations</i>	25. 2. 46		
<i>Urgent conversations</i>	<i>Urgent conversations</i>	8. 1. 47	<i>Urgent conversations</i>	8. 1. 47		
(convers. with double charge)	(convers. with double charge)		(convers. with double charge)			
<i>Express calls (Brits)</i>						
(convers. with tenfold charge)						
<i>XP-calls (to fetch a person)</i>	<i>XP-calls (to fetch a person)</i>	26. 11. 47	<i>XP-calls (to fetch a person)</i>	26. 11. 47		
<i>V-calls (pre-booking)</i>	<i>V-calls (pre-booking, conversations with certain persons)</i>	26. 11. 47	<i>V-calls (pre-booking, conversations with certain persons)</i>	26. 11. 47		
<i>R-calls (paying of the charge by the subscriber called for)</i>	<i>R-calls (paying of the charge by the subscriber called for)</i>	8. 1. 47	<i>R-calls (paying of the charge by the subscriber called for)</i>	8. 1. 47		

In 1947 about half of the pre-war long distance telephone facilities were restored in Berlin. The following year international service was resumed.

Calls at fixed time (speaking at a time fixed before)

N-calls (communications to post-positions etc. for passing on to certain persons)

Month-calls (arrangement of connection daily at the same time, to be booked at least for one month)

Week-calls (same as month-calls. Booking for seven successive days or multiple of it.)

Hour-calls (duration of the conversation at least one hour)

Wireless-calls (with travellers on ships and airplanes)

Television-calls (conversation between the television-telephones Berlin, Leipzig, Munchen and Nurnberg (stopped during wartime))

TELEGRAPH SERVICE

Types of Service in Effect 1938	Soviet Zone Types of Services in Effect Now	Effective Date opened	Western Zones Types of Services in Effect Now	Effective Date opened	International Service	Effective Date opened
Berlin Pneumatic Tube					International Telegraph Service except Spain & Japan	1. 12. 47
Secondary Telegraphs					only business telegrams or prepaid abroad	
Special Telegraphs						
Private Telegraphs	Private Telegraphs	24. 10. 45			Single Private Telegraphs in urgent cases with approval of Sector-Commandant	1. 4. 48
Public Teletype network sub. Teletype Sv. (T.N.-network)						
State - Telegraphs	State - Telegraphs for Local service	15. 11. 47	State - Telegraphs	15. 11. 47		
Telegraph service	from all Sectors	8. 10. 45				
Express Telegraphs	Urgent Telegraphs	22. 11. 45	Urgent Telegraphs	5. 6. 47		
Ordinary Telegraphs	Ordinary Telegraphs	1. 6. 47				
Press Telegraphs	(From all Sectors)	8. 10. 45	Press Telegraphs	15. 11. 47		
Telegraphic Money Orders + Payment Cards (M.O.)	Telegraphic Money Orders + Payment Cards (M.O.)	24. 10. 45	Urgent Press Telegraphs	15. 11. 47		
Weather & Water Level Announcements	Weather & Water Level Announcements	15. 11. 47				
Deferred Telegraphs						
Letter Telegraphs & Reduced Rates						
Semaphor Telegraphs	Semaphor Telegraphs	15. 11. 47	Semaphor Telegraphs			
Picture Telegraphs						
Picture Letter Telegraphs						
Telegrams with Prepaid Reply	Telegrams with Prepaid Reply	15. 1. 47	Telegrams with Prepaid Reply	15. 1. 47		
Express Messenger Paid	Express Messenger Paid	15. 11. 47	Express Messenger Paid	15. 11. 47		
Reply & Messenger Paid	Reply & Messenger Paid	15. 11. 47	Reply & Messenger Paid	15. 11. 47		
Telegram to Several Recipients	Telegram to Several Recipients	15. 1. 47	Telegram to Several Recipients	15. 1. 47		
Multiple Addressed Telegrams	Multiple Addressed Telegrams	15. 1. 47	Multiple Addressed Telegrams	15. 1. 47		
Telegrams with Collection	Telegrams with Collection					
Telegrams with Telegraphic Receipt					Telegrams with Telegraphic Receipt	26. 11. 47
Telegrams with Written Receipt					Telegrams with Written Receipt	26. 11. 47
Poste Restante	Poste Restante	26. 11. 47	Poste Restante	26. 11. 47		26. 11. 47
Ornament Telegrams (Inland Sv. to be forwarded)						

Most of the pre-war telegraphic facilities have been restored in Berlin. Private "picture telegrams", however, are still only a memory.



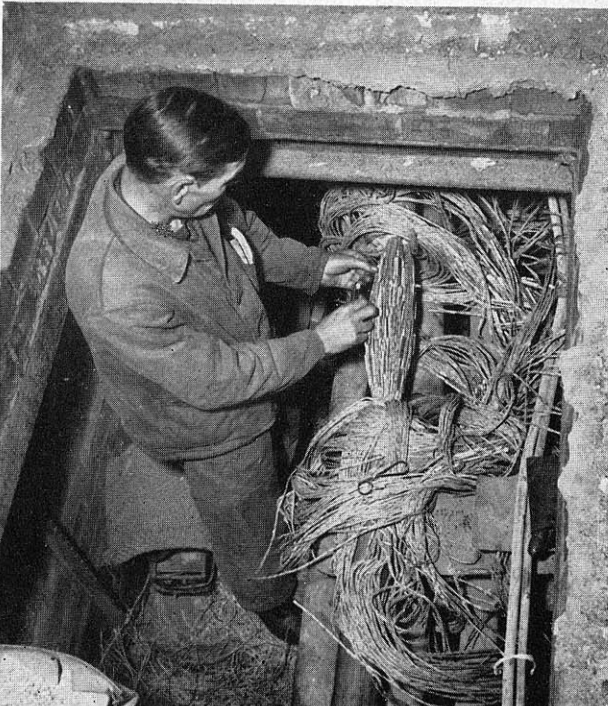
Workmen repairing one of the nine telephone exchanges in the U.S. Sector damaged by war-time bombing.

carry out an extensive program of the cable repair of the city's bombed and shattered network. Also during this period reconstruction of buildings took top priority and, consequently, by the end of the year 1948 the post office recovered so sufficiently that it was able to make capital investments to the extent of 10% of its gross income.

The Soviet blockade of the city did not in any way affect telephone communications.

However, in anticipation of interruptions of communications to the western zones, the U.S. Military Government installed several radio telephone links to provide against the event of emergency.

On April 12, 1949, the Soviet Military Administration re-routed all telephone circuits between the Berlin *Fernamt* and the Soviet Zone. Numerous



Underground cables required extensive repairs after the aerial and land pounding Berlin had undergone.

protests have been made by the Western Allies regarding this arbitrary act. As of this date, however, the situation has not altered. The removal of these circuits from use by the western sectors has, moreover, deprived the Berlin *Reichspost* of approximately 20 million Marks yearly.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE

The Main Telegraph Office for Berlin is located in the Soviet Sector and is directly controlled and supervised by Soviet communications officials. In 1945 this office was instructed to carry out extensive preparations for the resumption of telegraph service to the four zones of Germany.

In October, 1945, telegraph service within Berlin was resumed, permitting telegrams to be filed at post offices or by telephone. In February, 1946, interzonal telegraph service was authorized by the Allied Control Authority.

As the main telegraph office was located in the Soviet Sector, delays in handling telegrams increased, due to Soviet censorship which required an average of three to five hours.



Switchboard operators wrapped themselves in heavy blankets during the first post-war winters, for the walls were often half-demolished from bombing and shelling.

Despite numerous delays and inefficient operation, an average of 105,000 messages over some 75 telegraph circuits were processed daily. Telegraph service from this time until November, 1948, progressed very satisfactorily.

New international services were installed and negotiations between the Soviet Zone officials and each of the Western Military Governments were carried out at intervals. The U.S. Military Government has continued a program of attempts to align telegraph service in Berlin with that in the western zones. This would include the extension of "sender keep all" agreements to the western sectors. These agreements would permit the reduction of personnel necessary for maintaining accounts and records and, therefore, increase the net profits.

As of this date, however, this extension has not been completed and negotiations are continuing.

PERSONNEL

In 1945, the Communications Branch of OMGBS inherited the tremendous problem of denazifying some 30,000 employees of the *Reichspost*. Of the initial 3,422 employees processed, 106 were



Denazification procedures in Berlin eliminated only a small percentage of the city's communications personnel.

discharged, two were arrested, and 21 demoted to the level of ordinary worker.

Because of the quadripartite nature of denazification, the task proceeded very slowly as a result of insufficient personnel for maintenance of service and as a result of disagreements with the Soviet authorities regarding the appropriate methods of completing this work.

In general, the quality of personnel in the *Reichspost* left much to be desired. Approximately 80% of all male employees were over 40 years of age and 5% of all employees were over 60. Consequently, the *Reichspost* faced a very difficult and trying period in attempting to:

1. establish an adequate pension plan for pensioning all old employees who no longer were capable of rendering efficient service, and
2. establish schools for the instruction of new employees, as well as the converting of many postal employees into technicians.

However, by February 1, 1947, the *Reichspost* had established a post school for postal and telecommunications workers and was graduating students at the rate of some 1,300 a year. The *Reichspost* had also employed from private industries some 4,000 new workers that could be utilized immediately without being passed through the post school.

The personnel situation became quite satisfactory in this respect and by January 1, 1948, the *Reichspost* was able to discharge incompetent personnel and retire many aged employees under a pension plan which provided small amounts of pension benefits.

Soviets Purge Postal Workers

In November, 1948, however east sector officials initiated a purge of *Reichspost* employees, forcing

out approximately 2,800 employees who refused to sign communist pledges.

This situation has gradually righted itself through the pensioning of employees and the expansion of services. Denazification has been completed; the schools of the *Reichspost* have been expanded and modernized; a new pension plan of the city has been placed in effect; and the post office is now able to compete with private industry on an equal footing in the procurement of intelligent and qualified personnel.

Thus, in the past four years of operations the Berlin *Reichspost* has progressed from an almost totally destroyed communications network, postal service of the "horse and buggy" type, and very little telegraph service, to resume its status as a center of European communications with one of the most modern networks on the continent.

Progress Towards Pre-War Standards

In 1939, the Berlin *Reichspost* had a total of 600,000 telephones in the city and today has some 120,000 telephones re-installed. Letter mail service now is almost as great as that handled by the postal department in 1939.

However, the one serious set-back the *Reichspost* has suffered, is that in 1945 the Berlin Post Office was placed in trust of the City Magistrat and has



Berlin postal delivery service, though increasingly efficient, is still carried out in trucks of pre-war vintage.

not yet been permitted to participate in a national organization. In no country of the world is the postal department subject to such control and supervision by a local city administration as the Berlin *Reichspost*. The establishment of a central administration for the whole of Germany is not foreseeable, however, due to the political implications involved.

The *Reichspost* of Berlin has progressed steadily toward its goal of a general rehabilitation of communications and postal services.

With progress continuing at its present rate, another five years should see very little difference in the general appearance or physical structure of the Berlin *Reichspost*, as compared to that existing in 1939.