Fulfilling a pledge to Free World allies, the U. S. Army stands firm

In Barricade

DESPITE barriers of concrete block and barbed wire hastily emplaced on 13 August by the East German Communist regime, the beleaguered City of West Berlin remained invincible in its determination — an oasis of freedom in an agitated Communist sea. Propaganda barrages and water cannon failed to dampen the spirit of its citizenry.

AN IMPORTANT element in sustaining the city’s unflagging spirit was the back-up provided by the U. S. Army. The Berlin garrison was strengthened by moving up the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry; alert troops were positioned to counter any aggressive move. The animating purpose was epitomized by President John F. Kennedy in a radio-television report to the Nation: “We cannot and will not permit the Communists to drive us out of Berlin, either gradually or by force. For the fulfillment of our pledge to that city is essential to the morale and security of West Germany, to the unity of Western Europe, and to the faith of the entire free world.”

FOLLOWING are scenes of the U. S. Army responding to the Communist challenge on the front lines of freedom:

On guard duty in Friedrichstrasse, soldier carries live ammunition.

East Berlin police stand by one of their “water cannon” at a Berlin border.

Sign, armed guards, the ominous wall serve to dramatize division of city.

YOU ARE LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR
Вы ВЫЕЗЖАЕТЕ ИЗ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО СЕКТОРА
VOUS SORTEZ DU SECTEUR AMERICAIN
SIE VERLASSEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEktor
The Iron Curtain clange down as Communists mount barbed wire on masonry wall that seals off East Berlin.

Amid the murky dampness of a drizzly dawn, pancho-clad . . .

... members of the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry, begin move to Berlin . . .

... and here await their turn to cross from Allied check point to Soviet Area at Helmstedt.

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In Barricaded Berlin

Binoculars of East German police sweep American area at a Berlin crossing point.

Tanks reinforce infantry units in the troubled area.

Col. Glover Johns directs men of 18th Infantry on alert after arriving in Berlin.

Officer and enlisted man keep wary eye on movements across border zone.
"SOLDIER, why are you in Berlin? To show the Berliners, your allies, and the Communists the best soldier in our Army. To protect United States lives and property. To help the West Berlin police keep law and order. To fight like hell, if necessary, for United States rights and a free Berlin."

Message given to every soldier assigned to Berlin.

Ammunition for the inner man—guard at border point gets a hot meal.

Light machine gun is set up by 6th Infantry members in shelter of doorway near border of divided city.

Commander of a Patton tank of Berlin Command's 6th Infantry scrutinizes activities of an East German armored car across the Friedrichstrasse entrance to East Berlin.
In Barricaded Berlin

Trio from Co. D, 2d Battle Group, 6th Infantry, receive new M-14 rifles.

Three of six West Point cadets who entered Berlin with 18th Infantry discuss experiences.

Cheering throngs line route as 18th rolls into Berlin near the bombed ruins of Kaiser Wilhelm Church.

On trip that helped raise morale of West Berliners, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson inspects a portion of U. S. Berlin Command not far from Soviet Zone.