

Aug 13, 1961: Berlin is divided

Shortly after midnight on this day in 1961, East German soldiers begin laying down barbed wire and bricks as a barrier between Soviet-controlled East Berlin and the democratic western section of the city.

After World War II, defeated Germany was divided into Soviet, American, British and French zones of occupation. The city of Berlin, though technically part of the Soviet zone, was also split, with the Soviets taking the eastern part of the city.

After a massive Allied airlift in June 1948 foiled a Soviet attempt to blockade West Berlin, the eastern section was drawn even more tightly into the Soviet fold. Over the next 12 years, cut off from its western counterpart and basically reduced to a Soviet satellite, East Germany saw between 2.5 million and 3 million of its citizens head to West Germany in search of better opportunities.

By 1961, some 1,000 East Germans—including many skilled laborers, professionals and intellectuals—were leaving every day.

In August, Walter Ulbricht, the Communist leader of East Germany, got the go-ahead from Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to begin the sealing off of all access between East and West Berlin. Soldiers began the work over the night of August 12-13, laying more than 100 miles of barbed wire slightly inside the East Berlin border.



der. The wire was soon replaced by a six-foot-high, 96-mile-long wall of concrete blocks, complete with guard towers, machine gun posts and searchlights. East German officers known as Volkspolizei ("Volpos") patrolled the Berlin Wall day and night.

Many Berlin residents on that first morning found themselves sud-

denly cut off from friends or family members in the other half of the city.

Led by their mayor, Willi Brandt, West Berliners demonstrated against the wall, as Brandt criticized Western democracies, particularly the United States, for failing to take a stand against it. President John F. Kennedy had earlier said publicly

that the United States could only really help West Berliners and West Germans, and that any kind of action on behalf of East Germans would only result in failure.

The Berlin Wall was one of the most powerful and iconic symbols of the Cold War. In June 1963, Kennedy gave his famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner") speech in front of the Wall, celebrating the city as a symbol of freedom and democracy in its resistance to tyranny and oppression. The height of the Wall was raised to 10 feet in 1970 in an effort to stop escape attempts, which at that time came almost daily. From 1961 to 1989, a total of 5,000 East Germans escaped; many more tried and failed. High profile shootings of some would-be defectors only intensified the Western world's hatred of the Wall.

Finally, in the late 1980s, East Germany, fueled by the decline of the Soviet Union, began to implement a number of liberal reforms. On November 9, 1989, masses of East and West Germans alike gathered at the Berlin Wall and began to climb over and dismantle it. As this symbol of Cold War repression was destroyed, East and West Germany became one nation again, signing a formal treaty of unification on October 3, 1990.

(Source: History.com)

Iron Age people gave interiors of dwellings a decorative streak

Archaeologists in Saxony-Anhalt have discovered a 2,600-year-old wall painted in bright patterns. It reveals that Iron Age houses were not the drab constructions they were once thought to be.

The State Museum for Prehistory in the eastern German city of Halle put part of the prehistoric clay wall on display last Monday. The wall was apparently part of a sprawling, Iron Age human settlement.

"We know now that prehistoric times were not grey but rather that prehistoric houses were colorfully

painted," Saxony-Anhalt state archaeologist, Harald Meller, said.

It was the greatest Iron Age wall painting discovered north of the Alps, he said.

The dominant colors are red, beige and white. For pigments, the prehistoric painters used substances such as iron oxide, which gives the reddish, ochre color. The design shows typical ornamental patterns from the Iron Age such as triangles and S-shaped hooks, but also symbolic characters.

"The painted wall possibly decorated the front of an important house,"



Meller said.

Archaeologists discovered the wall two years ago during an excavation of the site for a new high-speed train line, near the village of Wennungen, about 40 kilometers southwest of Halle.

The wall had been broken up into about 1,500 individual pieces over time. Experts have spent much of the past two years putting the pieces back together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. The final product is a section of wall two meters long and 1.5 meters tall.

One piece of the wall will be shown from 2012 as part of a permanent exhibition that also features the famous 3,600-year-old Nebrasky disc, a bronze object about 30 centimeters in diameter depicting celestial bodies in gold on a blue-green background.

(Source: The Local)

3,000-year-old adorning lion unearthed

Archaeologists leading the University of Toronto's Tayinat Archaeological Project in southeastern Turkey have unearthed the remains of a monumental gate complex adorned with stone sculptures, including a magnificently carved lion. The gate complex provided access to the citadel of Kunulua, capital of the Neo-Hittite Kingdom of Patina (ca. 950-725 BCE), and is reminiscent of the citadel gate excavated by British archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley in 1911 at the royal Hittite



city of Carchemish.

"The lion is fully intact, approximately 1.3 meters in height and 1.6 meters in length. It is poised in a seated position, with ears back, claws extended and roaring," says Timothy Harrison, professor of near eastern archaeology in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and director of U of T's Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP).

"The presence of lions, or sphinxes, and colossal statues astride the Master and Animals motif in the citadel gateways of the Neo-Hittite royal cities of Iron Age Syro-Anatolia continued a Bronze Age Hittite tradition that accentuated their symbolic role as boundary zones, and the role of the king as the divinely appointed guardian, or gatekeeper, of the community," says Harrison. The elaborately decorated gateways served as dynastic parades, legitimizing the power of the ruling elite. The gate complex appears to have been destroyed following the Assyrian conquest of the site in 738 BCE, when the area was paved over and converted into the central courtyard of an Assyrian sacred precinct.

(Source: EurekAlert)

IN THE NEWS

Excavations in Artsakh shed light on ancient city of Dikranagerd

Recent archaeological activities are yielding new and exciting finds in the ancient city of Dikranagerd, located in Artsakh.

Dikranagerd, the city built by Dikran the Great, was discovered in 2005. Since then, archaeologists have carried out excavations in various parts of the city and revealed such structures as the Mijanaberd Fortress and the Basilica Church, the director of the Artsakh Archaeological Expedition, Hamlet Petrosyan, told Armenpress.

Archaeologists now believe that Dikranagerd, founded in the first century B.C., was a large city with an advanced building plan and construction modes, many gardens, and a large population of several thousands.

In recent months, archaeologists have discovered a district with a territory of six to seven hectares. They also located a cemetery and upon, further excavations, discovered that the dead were buried with property, including coins, Petrosyan said.

The archaeological discoveries have been presented to communities in Yerevan, Stepanakert, the U.S., and Egypt.

"If we continue the excavations of Dikranagerd with this tempo, it will take 15-20 years to understand the blueprint of the city," said Petrosyan, who is also the head of Yerevan State University's department of cultural studies.

A museum and storage facility for the artifacts is under construction in Stepanakert. In the meantime, items that require special storage conditions are being kept at Yerevan State University's archaeology lab.

The rest, totaling over 3,000 items, are currently on exhibit at the Dikranagerd Museum. According to Petrosyan, between 300 and 800 artifacts are unearthed each year.

(Source: The American Weekly)

Evidence of oldest sailing ship in Baltic Sea

The ancient ship burial site in Salme on the island of Saaremaa still has some surprises in store.

The archaeological excavations in Salme, soon to be completed, have yielded evidence that the ship that had been buried with 35 warriors and nobles had a keel, which in turn leads to the conclusion that it used sails. This represents the earliest known use of sails on a vessel in the Baltic Sea region.

"One piece of new information that we have been anticipating since winter was still to be found - namely, confirmation of whether it was a sailing ship or not. Now we have evidence that it used sails," said archeologist Juri Peets of Tallinn University.

Peets called this discovery the cherry on top of the cake that was the nearly two-year-long archaeological dig. "It is thought that sails were first introduced in the North Sea and Baltic Sea region at about 700 A.D., which is the conventional date.

Our ship dates from the year 750. The ship from the year 700 was from the North Sea region, near Norway. However, here in the Baltic Sea region, this is without a doubt the oldest sailing ship that has been found," said Peets.

In addition to the discovery of the keel, the irregular rows of strong rivets found on the bottom of the vessel also prove that the ship used sails.

Maritime archaeologist Vello Mäsa confirmed that the Salme ship was without a doubt a warship that used sails. Although sails had been long in use in the Mediterranean Sea region, it was the Norwegians who first started using them in the North Sea region.

(Source: Estonian Public Broadcasting)

ON THIS DAY

1521	Present day Mexico City was captured by Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez from the Aztec Indians.
1704	The Battle of Blenheim was fought during the War of the Spanish Succession, resulting in a victory for English and Austrian forces.
1792	French revolutionaries took the entire French royal family and imprisoned them.
1876	The Reciprocity Treaty between the U.S. and Hawaii was ratified.
1889	A patent for a coin-operated telephone was issued to William Gray.
1932	Adolf Hitler refused to take the post of vice-chancellor of Germany. He said he was going to hold out "for all or nothing."
1934	Al Capp's comic strip "Li'l Abner" made its debut in newspapers.
1960	"Echo 1," a balloon satellite, allowed the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite to take place.
1961	Berlin was divided by a barbed wire fence to halt the flight of refugees. Two days later work on the Berlin Wall began.
1990	Iraq transferred \$3-4 billion in bullion, currency, and other goods seized from Kuwait to Baghdad.
1994	It was reported that aspirin not only helps reduce the risk of heart disease, but also helps prevent colon cancer.

Quality Assessment Announcement for Construction and Delivery of two Aluminum Crew Boat units for inspection of oil tankers At Khark Island and Taheri port (Bushehr) (Tender No: 90/ME/923)

Ports and Maritime Organization

This is hereby to announce that Ports & Maritime Organization (PMO) of I.R.Iran intends to proceed with **Construction, Shipment and Delivery of two Aluminum Crew Boat units for inspection of oil tankers At Khark Island and Taheri port (Bushehr)** based on the quality assessment procedure and through a public international tender.

***Therefore, in order to carry out the quality assessment,** all local and foreigner manufacturer companies are invited to refer either to the central secretariat of the PMO, at the below mentioned address and upon presenting an introduction letter and the original bank receipt of **200,000 Iranian Rials** paid to Siba account **No. 2176459001009** by Bank Melli Iran, to receive a CD containing the Quality Assessment Forms and tender documents or the relevant website, IETS.MPORG.IR Maximum till **Monday 22nd/ Aug/ 2011**.

***Place and deadline for submitting the documents and completed forms:** Directory General of Equipment Supply & Maintenance at the 5th floor of the PMO building and to the last working hour on **Wednesday 21st/ Sep/ 2011**.

It should be emphasized is to emphasize again that the relevant receipt against submitting of the said documents and forms must be kept for further steps.

***Meanwhile, the first question & answer session will be held at 10 A.M on Tuesday 23th/ Aug/ 2011** at the Directory General for Equipment Supply & Maintenance office and attendance of the informed technical and commercial representatives of all manufacturer companies of the aforementioned equipment which are willing to participate in quality assessment of tender is obligatory (together with a written introduction letter).

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