



ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN

GAME MANUAL





A Border guard patrol boat on the Danube in Bratislava, then Czechoslovakia; barriers and barbed-wire fence on the Western border of former Czechoslovakia.





THE IRON CURTAIN

From the end of WWII in 1945 until 1991, Europe was forcibly divided into East and West. Totalitarian Communist dictatorships were established in the East, characterised by violations of all fundamental human rights, while in the West, advanced democracies developed, based on the principles of democracy, upholding human rights and the rule of law. The Communist Soviet Union and its satellite states erected an “Iron Curtain” on their outer border with the free, democratic world - a heavily guarded, practically impenetrable barrier stretching from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. Behind the Iron Curtain, the Communist states kept their citizens in isolation, non-freedom and repression. Travel to the free, democratic world was only allowed with the permission of the secret police.

On land, the Iron Curtain consisted of two, three or more parallel barbed wire fences with ploughed land inbetween for detecting footprints. Electric current was used, as well as land mines, self-shooting devices and anti-vehicle barriers. Border guards with automatic weapons and specially trained assault dogs patrolled the Iron Curtain. The coastal and river borders of the Communist bloc were guarded by armed patrol boats and ships. Unidentified planes or flying devices were shot down. A famous part of the Iron Curtain was the Berlin Wall dividing the city into an Eastern, Communist part and Western, democratic one. Secondary Iron Curtains were also raised between the Communist countries themselves, such as between Romania and Yugoslavia, or around Albania.

People trying to escape to the West were arrested and sent to prison. Thousands of innocent civilians were killed or died at the Iron Curtain. Luckily, many more managed to escape, in various and often dramatic ways. While the Communist dictatorships covered up and kept everything secret, Western media reported on escape attempts. In many cases, citizens from Western Europe helped people to flee from the Communist countries. The refugees were welcomed in the West where they could start living their new lives in freedom. Among them were a number of well-known artists, dissidents, intellectuals and athletes, who went on to build successful careers in the West.

The end of the Iron Curtain came with the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. It was first dismantled on the border between Hungary and Austria in the summer of 1989, followed by the fall of the Berlin Wall and most Communist dictatorships in the autumn and winter of 1989 and, finally, the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the game **Across the Iron Curtain**, players help fictional characters escape from Communist countries to the West. The motivations of the refugees to leave in the search for freedom, even at the risk of their own lives, can be traced to the violations of fundamental human rights in the dictatorship. At the end of the game manual, true stories of eight people who managed to cross the Iron Curtain and of one escape helper from Western Europe are presented. The real newspaper cuttings about similar escape attempts are taken from U.S. American newspapers of the time.





Across the Iron Curtain is an educational historical board game created and released by the Platform of European Memory and Conscience in cooperation with the Institute of National Remembrance, Poland.

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**INSTYTUT
PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ**

This game is dedicated to the memory of all those who dared to cross the Iron Curtain and of all those who perished on the way.



ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN

THE GAME

Game for 1-6 players (2-6 recommended)
 Playing time: 20-45 minutes
 Age: 10+

OBJECTIVE:

You are an escape helper trying to bring your characters across the Iron Curtain from Communist-ruled states to the Democracy side.

GAME COMPONENTS:



Game board



30 character cards



54 escape cards



1 game opening marker



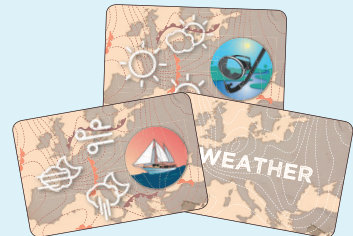
30 pawns in 6 colours
(5 of each color)



18 Iron Curtain cards



24 experience tokens



8 weather cards

5. ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN

Starting with the player who has the opening marker, each one can try to escape with his or her characters to the West.

There are eight different escape means, marked with icons:



BY BOAT



BY SWIMMING



ON FOOT



BY PLANE



BY TRUCK



BY BALLOON

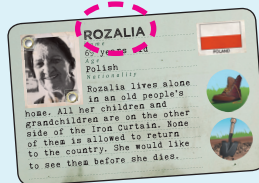


BY TRAIN



BY DIGGING

To attempt an escape, the player takes one of his/her characters, shows it to the other players and says: "I am trying to escape with Rozalia (the name of the character) on foot (the chosen escape way)", then plays at least one escape card (with the announced symbol – in this example it is a shoe).



The **player needs to gather no less than 3 escape symbols** of the chosen kind in order to attempt an escape. Sometimes, depending on the Iron Curtain cards, there will be more than three symbols necessary to escape successfully (see below).

The player counts all chosen symbols on:

all the played escape cards (at least one escape card must be played),

the chosen character card,

the current weather condition card,

and appropriate player's experience tokens (which the player can gain during the game).



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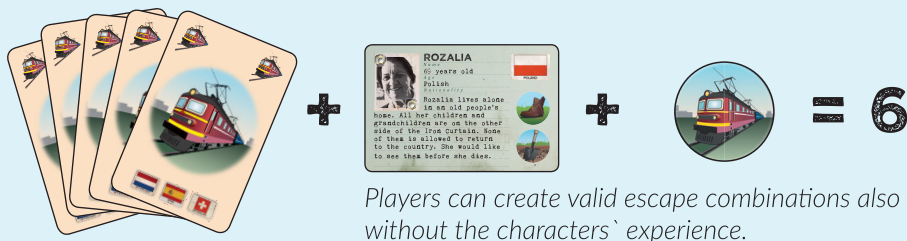
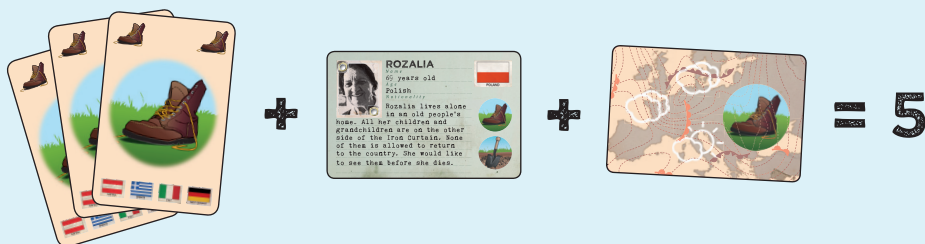
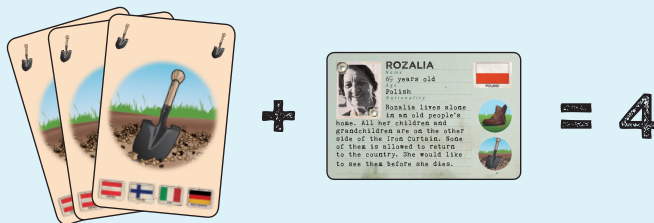
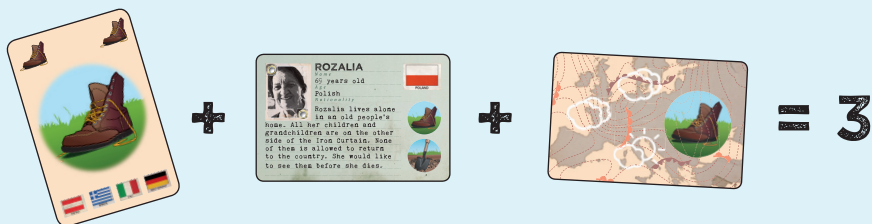


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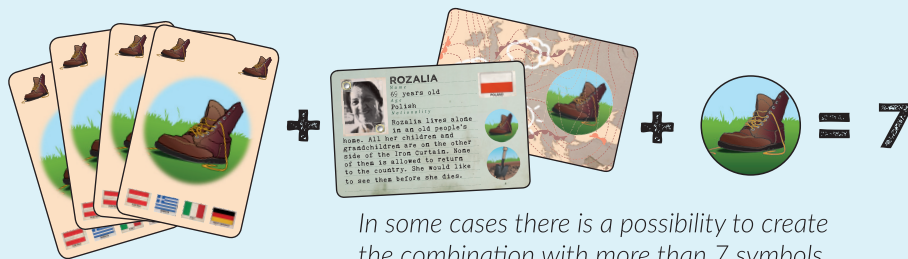
= 5 symbols

6

Valid escape symbol combination examples:



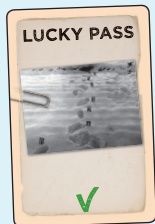
Players can create valid escape combinations also without the characters' experience.



In some cases there is a possibility to create the combination with more than 7 symbols.

The player then reveals the top card from the Iron Curtain pile, reads the text aloud and sees if he/she has succeeded or failed.

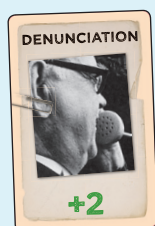
The possible outcomes at the Iron Curtain are:



LUCKY PASS - the easiest way. The character escaped if he/she gathered at least **3 or more** matching escape symbols.



PROBLEMS - the character escaped if he/she gathered at least **4 or more** matching escape symbols (at least **1 more** same symbol is needed).



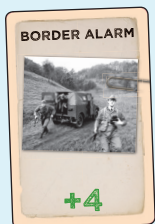
DENUNCIATION - the character escaped if he/she gathered at least **5 or more** matching escape symbols. (at least **2 more** same symbols are needed).



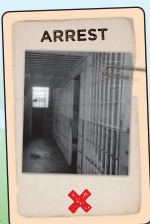
VEHICLE FAILURE - if this card occurs and the character attempts to escape by plane, balloon, train, boat or truck, he/she will need at least **6** matching escape symbols to cross the border. For characters escaping on foot, by swimming or digging, the player needs only 3 or more matching escape symbols.



PURSUIT - if a character tries to escape on foot, by swimming or digging, he/she needs at least **6** matching escape symbols to cross the border. For those escaping by plane, balloon, train, boat or truck, the player needs only 3 matching escape symbols.



BORDER ALARM - the character escaped if he/she gathered at least **7** or more matching escape symbols (this is possible only when



ARREST - the character fails the attempt instantly. The character card is moved to prison where it remains until all other character cards are used up.

you combine escape cards with the experience token, character skills and suitable weather conditions).



Failed attempt:

If an attempt to cross the Iron Curtain fails (except the ARREST card), the player keeps the character card but discards all the escape cards he or she played. If the player missed the mark by 1 symbol only (for example: 5 same symbols were needed but the player had collected only 4), every time he or she **gains the experience token** with the symbol of the chosen escape means. The token can be used in the next rounds of the game and it remains in the player's possession until the end of the game. The player can get only one experience token of each type per game (for example, if the player already has one "swimming" token, he or she cannot get a second one of the same type). If the experience tokens of one kind are exhausted, the players cannot obtain them any more.



Successful escape:

After a successful escape, the player places his/her character card face up next to the board on the Democracy side and moves the matching pawn to the chosen democratic country. Then the player discards all the used escape cards to the discard pile.



Successful escape - example: 5 symbols (3+2) + Iron Curtain card

Second attempt:

If a player can procure enough symbols to attempt an escape of the second character, he/she can try for the second time during one round.

If the player declined or finished his/her turn, the next player in clockwise direction attempts to escape with his/her characters.

If the Iron Curtain deck has been exhausted, the players shuffle the discard pile in order to create a new draw deck.

6. END OF THE ROUND

When the last player finished his/her escape attempts, the round is over and the players pick new character cards. The game opening marker goes to the next player in clockwise direction.

New character cards:

Each player leads two characters wanting to escape from the Communist bloc. If the player has less than two characters at the end of the round, he/she draws new character cards up to his/her actual limit of character cards.

Note: If a player has already successfully escaped with 4 characters, he/she will play with only 1 character card toward the end of the game.

Players draw new character cards in clockwise order, starting with the player with the opening marker. Newly drawn characters are revealed immediately. Move the pawns from the Communism space to the countries accordingly.

If the character pile is exhausted, character cards are "released" from prison. Take all the character cards from the prison space, shuffle them and put them next to the board as a new draw pile.

THE END OF THE GAME

The game ends immediately if one of the players successfully escaped with his/her fifth character to the Democracy side of the board. The player who did it is the winner of the game. If no one managed to flee with five characters until the end of the eighth round, the game ends and the player with the most characters on the Democracy side wins. If two or more players have rescued the same number of characters, they both share their victory.

ONE PLAYER VARIANT

It is possible to play the game alone. During solo play, you cannot trade, so you should take three random character cards (you will have more escape skills). How many characters could you successfully guide across the Iron Curtain?



EAST GERMAN REFUGEE SHOT BY RED GUARDS

Communists Hunt for More Tunnels

11 Germans Flee BRUNSWICK, Germany, June 19 (Reuters)—Eleven

Vigilance in Divided Country

(Story in adjoining column)



4 Poles Steal Ricketty Plane, Fly to Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 3 (AP)—A rattletap Polish plane, scarred by bullets, limped across the Baltic sea to southern Sweden early today with four young Poles who said they were fed up with communism. They asked for asylum as political refugees.

4 Soldiers, Disgusted with Reds, Escape Iron Curtain

MUNICH, Germany, Sept. 11 [Reuters]—Two Polish and two Czech soldiers fled from Czechoslovakia to West Germany last night, the police reported today. They said they fled because they disagreed with the way the Communists ran their countries.

FUGITIVE POLISH

RADIO REAL OF IF

BY A WBBM

REAL IRON CURTAIN STORIES

EAST GERMAN CROP-DUSTER FLIES TO WEST

Skims Tree-Tops to Evade Detection

UELZEN, Germany, Sept. 17

GERMAN LOSES LEG BY MINE, CRAWLS WEST

Hangs in Barbed Wire Before Escaping

HOF, Germany, Aug. 26 (AP)—An East German refugee—his leg blown off by a communist land mine—hung entangled in barbed wire for more than an hour today before mustering the strength to drag himself to freedom in the west. His two children accompanied him on his escape.

Police reported that the father, 45; his son, 12; and daughter, 13, made their break across the iron curtain frontier near here before dawn.

Children Lead Guards



2 Czechs Flee to W. Germany

Ask Refuge in West from Red Rule

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov. 22 (AP)—Two anti-communist Czechs flew over the iron curtain to Bavaria in a small sports plane today and asked United States



Editor Describes Border Episode

[Donald Starr, foreign editor of the Chicago Tribune, in his, the fourth of a series of articles, he gives his impressions of life behind the iron curtain.]

BY DONALD STARR



From Tribune Wire Service

NALLA, Germany—Two East German couples and their four children, crammed together on a tiny platform, made a daring escape to the West early Sunday in a homemade hot air balloon.

It was the first time a balloon had been used to escape from East Germany, West German border police said.

Since the Berlin Wall was built 18 years ago refugees have tunneled under the border, flown over it in aircraft, and broken through it in trucks, automobiles, and trains. One man even escaped in a submarine he built.

"It is amazing the balloon could remain airborne," a police spokesman said. "Eight people and four gas containers were on a platform of 1.96 square meters (4.5 feet long by 4.5 feet wide). The balloon was the size of a small tent."

THE BALLOON was attached by one-inch thick ropes to a six-foot square iron

sumed our journey. We expected a report by the policeman to the interior ministry, and having already felt the heavy oppression of a police state for three days, were expecting trouble at the border exit.

Perhaps it was bureaucratic tape and its endless delays, or perhaps we exaggerated the seriousness of the police procedure, but the im-

Hungarian forints and tried to convert them to Austrian schillings where the sign plainly read exchange. We were told that if we wanted to convert the forints to schillings we would have to return to Budapest. Our exit visas had been stamped and we asked if we could return to Budapest.

"No," said the official, "you cannot go back. You must go back to convert to schillings."

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Balloon wafts eight to freedom



2 Russ Students Hijack 2d Soviet Plane to Turkey

SINOP, Turkey, Oct. 27 (AP) — Two Soviet students blindfolded the pilot of a small Russian passenger plane today and guided the aircraft across the Turkish border to this Black Sea coastal town. It was the second hijacking of a Soviet plane to Turkey in two weeks.

The Czech-made twin-engine craft of the Soviet airline Aeroflot was on a domestic flight from Kerch to Krasnodar, north of the Black Sea, when two of the three passengers aboard took it over.

Russian teacher hikes to freedom

STOCKHOLM (UPI)—Alexander was no ballet star or famous scientist, but rather a physics teacher who wanted out of the Soviet Union with a yearning so deep that he undertook a 2,500-mile journey to freedom.

He walked, rowed, and hitchhiked his way across the Soviet Union, Finland, Norway, and Sweden for 26 days—braving risky border crossings and living off berries and wild mushrooms. He

Czech Guards Nab 2 Refugees

57 Flee in Tunnel Under Berlin Wall



Unidentified East German crawling thru tunnel beneath communist wall toward freedom in West Berlin. Route was used by 57 persons to flee East Berlin.

BY LARRY RUE [Bonn Bureau Chief] (Pictures on back page) (Chicago Tribune Press Service) BERLIN, Oct. 5—A Communist East German border



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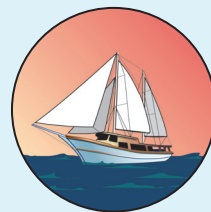
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ESCAPE STORIES

BY BOAT

In the autumn of 1953, twenty-year-old Ludwik Zienkiewicz decided to escape from Poland to Sweden on a little pre-war yacht. Together with Jan Preuss they borrowed a boat called "Architekt" from their sailing club. They took also Jerzy and Leszek on board, two colleagues unaware of the escape. They had one stolen map of the Baltic Sea and a



small supply of water. For the case of discovery by an offshore patrol of the Border guard they took two bottles of vodka with them, which they intended to drink and pretend to be drunk. Cleverly maneuvering, they managed to fool the Border guards. After sailing overnight in difficult conditions, they reached the shores of Gotland. Ludwik, Jan and Jerzy stayed in Sweden. Leszek returned to Poland.



The yacht "Architekt"; Mr Zienkiewicz then and today.



BY SWIMMING

Marcin Bieniada, a Pole, swam across the Danube in order to reach the free world. It was in 1982, after General Wojciech Jaruzelski declared martial law in the country, sending soldiers into the streets and closing the borders. Marcin Bieniada had been on the other side of the Iron Curtain before, but after Jaruzelski's measures it became clear to him that they would not let him leave legally any more. He knew Slovakia, so he decided to escape between Bratislava and Dĕvín. The guarded fence of the Iron Curtain followed the side of a road. One could climb a lamp





post and jump over the fence from it. Beyond the fence there was only the river. In the night of 23 August 1982 Bieniada taped a small bag with documents and 350 US dollars to his leg. After overcoming the fence he swam across the Danube to Austria. It was extremely dangerous, because of the strong currents in the river and the ship traffic. One of the ships suddenly appeared right in front of

him. He was lucky. "I managed to stay on the surface, the boat did not pull me down," he explained later.

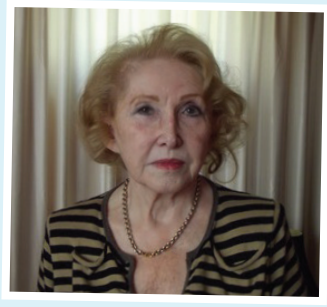
Mr Bieniada today holding up the trousers which got torn during his escape and standing on the Austrian side in 1983, looking back at the place where he crossed the Danube.

ON FOOT

Irena Šimonová – Vlachová, a Czech, decided to escape to the West on foot across East Germany. She was not only running away from Czechoslovakia. It was also an escape from prison where she had landed for trying to warn some lawyers about their impending arrests after the Communist coup in February 1948. The secret police however found out and tortured her cruelly. Maybe that is why she used the first occasion to escape. In the summer



of 1951 she was sent as a prisoner to work in a brick factory. Together with another prisoner girlfriend they decided to run. They walked from Western Bohemia all the way to the East German border, they went into hiding and continued across the territory of the former GDR. They made it to the town of Plauen, where they were arrested by the East German Border guard. They had been on the run for eleven days. They were returned to Communist Czechoslovakia where they received further prison sentences. Irena Šimonová-Vlachová was released from prison in 1960. She finally emigrated to the Netherlands after the Soviet occupation in 1968.



Ms Šimonová-Vlachová before her arrest in 1948 and today.





BY PLANE - BY MOTORIZED GLIDER

Josef Hlavatý, a Czech, flew across the Iron Curtain on 7 July 1988 in a home-made motorized glider. He tied his three-year-old son onto his back. "We are flying to meet mommy," he told him before the start. The Communist regime had allowed his wife and their other child to travel to Yugoslavia on holiday, but not him and the little boy. Splitting the family was meant to be a safeguard against emigration. Hlavatý's father assisted him by helping him transport the flying machine to the place of take-off near the Slovak-Austrian border. There they had to wait in hiding for three days for the wind to calm down, because the weak engine could not brave a storm. Still, the undertaking was dangerous even with no wind at all. The machine had no navigation instruments and Hlavatý had to take off during darkness so as not to be seen. After taking off, he lost his way and almost crashed into the watchtower of the border guards. In the end, he managed to land safely in Austria.



Mr Hlavatý today and with his son upon landing, in a period Austrian newspaper.



BY TRUCK

Fifteen-year-old Adam Zieliński decided to escape from Communist Poland because he did not see any perspective for the future for himself. He persuaded his thirteen-year-old brother Krzysztof to leave the country with him. In Warsaw, they did not manage to get on board of a plane. So they went to the Świnoujście harbor



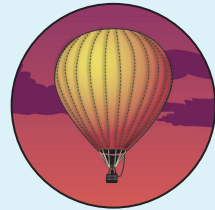


where they hid in a truck which entered the ferry to Sweden. They were lucky because on that day, 26 September 1985, the Border guard dogs were sick, so they were not detected. They got to Sweden safely. The Polish authorities demanded their extradition, but the boys won the battle, granting them the status of political refugees. In 1989, a Polish film "300 miles to Heaven" was made based on their story.

Krzysztof and Adam Zieliński in 1985 and Krzysztof today.

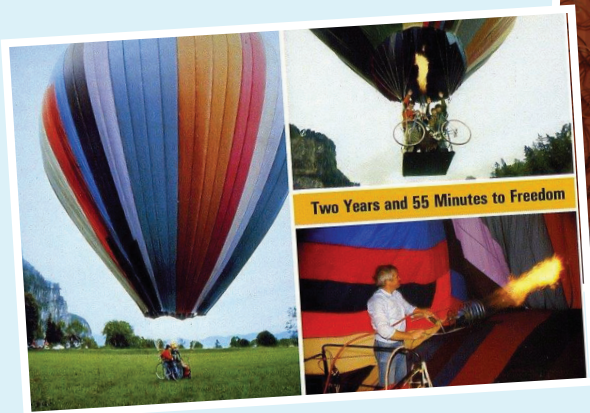
BY BALLOON

Josef Hutyra, a bicycle racer from Bratislava, Slovakia, escaped across the Iron Curtain in a hot air balloon, together with his entire family and a racing bike. All of them, meaning himself, his wife and two children, had to squeeze onto the small suspended platform next to the gas burner which was heating the air for the balloon.



At the end of the 1970s, Hutyra got hold of a newspaper clipping from the West describing the flying escape by two East Germans in a home-made balloon. This inspired him and he began constructing a similar balloon. He was a successful bicycle racer, he was even on the national team, but the Communist regime confiscated his passport, so he would not be able to travel. He could not find any other way to escape than by air. On 7 September 1983 he flew from Southern Moravia across to Austria. He was extremely lucky, and the flight lasted less than an hour.

A postcard showing the Hutyra family in their balloon and Mr Hutyra today.





BY TRAIN

The *Freedom train* went down in world history. Czechoslovak express train No. 3717 from Prague to Aš broke through the Iron Curtain during the height of the Cold War. The three organisers of the train escape planned the whole action carefully. They made use of the fact that the railroad switch near the border was usually turned toward the German town of Selb and forced the engine driver to continue beyond the end stop. The train crossed the border on 11 September 1951 and came to a halt in the American zone in Bavaria. “*The freedom train was an event which circled the globe in the media,*” Czech journalist Pavel Tigrid wrote. One hundred and ten passengers suddenly found themselves outside of the barbed wire, leaving their loved ones or relatives behind. They knew that if they decided to stay, they may not see them ever again. Still, altogether twenty-four opted for emigration. Some of those who returned later regretted their decision. This escape led to a further reinforcement of the Iron Curtain.

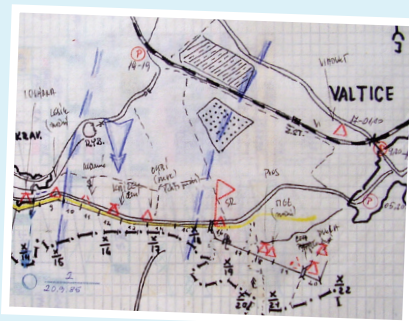


The Freedom train in Selb, Bavaria.



BY DIGGING

Václav Bařina, a Czech from Southern Moravia knew the surroundings of the border with Austria very well and made us of it. There was a village directly at the Iron Curtain. Everybody wanting to enter it was checked by the Border guard. His friend's grandmother lived there. They visited her regularly until the Border guard became used to them and their car. On 20 September 1985 they got to the village by car as usual. This time, they were four young men altogether. They knew that the guard was sometimes absent from one of the watchtowers, so they decided to dig their way out under the signal fence right next to the tower. The young men were only partly successful – the hole was too narrow and one of them got stuck. While crawling under the wires, they set off an alarm. They knew they had only one chance – a headlong dash for Austria, so they ran for their lives. All ended well, with a lot of luck.



Mr Bařina today; drawing by the Border guard showing the escape of Mr Bařina and friends.



STORY OF AN ESCAPE HELPER

During WWII, West German Alexander Wiegand's life was saved by a nun. When the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, it became his life's purpose to help others. He hired as a truck driver for a company which travelled from West Germany to the Eastern bloc. Between 1967 and 1972, he managed to smuggle 129 people across the Iron Curtain to the West, into freedom. He used a truck with double walls and bribed the Border guards. For a long time, he was successful.

However, on 30 April 1972, he was caught on the Czechoslovak border with West Germany. The customs officers asked him to come back with more money after the weekend. The eight people hiding in the truck became afraid and made noise – so they were discovered. Mr Wiegand and the refugees were arrested and sent to prison. Alexander Wiegand served 4.5 years of a much longer sentence in Czechoslovak prisons. He was tortured, he has cigarette burns on his body until today. For some time, he shared a prison cell with Czech dissident Václav Havel. In the meantime, East Germany considered him “No. 1. enemy of the state”. He managed to get released from prison based on his poor health, thanks to a letter smuggled out to the West German embassy. On 1 September 1976 he was set free. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher received him at the Prague airport.

Alexander Wiegand never took money for the escapes which he organised. Today he continues to help children from Belarus harmed by the aftereffects of the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986.

Mr Wiegand in the cabin of his truck; the 1972 Czechoslovak Communist court sentence sending Mr Wiegand to prison; Mr Wiegand today and with his truck before his arrest.



EAST GERMAN REFUGEE SHOT BY RED GUARDS

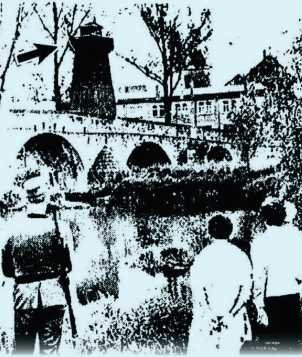
Communists Hunt for More Tunnels

11 Germans Flee
BRUNSWICK, Germany, June 19 (Reuters)—Eleven East Germans, including five children, escaped across the heavily guarded border into West Germany near here last night, police said today.

BERLIN, June 19 (UPI)—Communist border guards today shot another East German refugee as he tried to reach West Berlin.

Vigilance in Divided Country

(Story in adjoining column)



4 Poles Steal Rickety Plane, Fly to Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 3 (AP)—A rattletrap Polish plane, scarred by bullets, limped across the Baltic sea to southern Sweden early today with four young Poles who said they were fed up with communism. They asked for asylum as political refugees.

The four, three men 22 years old and a woman of 20, told of stealing the plane in the darkness from an airport near Poznan, of a fight with Polish military guards who sought to stop them and of pursuit by a Polish warplane, which they finally eluded in clouds near the Baltic.

4 Soldiers, Disgusted with Reds, Escape Iron Curtain

MUNICH, Germany, Sept. 11 (Reuters)—Two Polish and two Czech soldiers fled from Czechoslovakia to West Germany last night, the police reported today. They said they fled because they disagreed with the way the Communists ran their countries.

FUGITIVE POLISH SKIPPER GAINS BRITISH ASYLUM

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Perhaps it was bureaucratic red tape and its endless delays, or perhaps we exaggerated the seriousness of the police procedure, but the immigration staff evidently mis-

Hungarian forints and tried to convert them to Austrian schillings where the sign plainly read exchange. We were told that if we wanted to convert the forints to schillings we would have to return to Budapest. Our exit visas had been stamped and we asked if we could return to Budapest.

"No," said the official, "you cannot go back. You must go back to convert to schilling."

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EAST GERMAN CROP-DUSTER FLIES TO WEST

Skims Tree-Tops to Evade Detection

UELZEN, Germany, Sept. 17

GERMAN LOSES LEG BY MINE, CRAWLS WEST

Hangs in Barbed Wire Before Escaping

HOF, Germany, Aug. 26 (AP)—An East German refugee—his leg blown off by a communist land mine—hung entangled in barbed wire for more than an hour today before mustering the strength to drag himself to freedom in the west. His two children accompanied him on his escape.

Police reported that the father, 45; his son, 12; and daughter, 13, made their break across the iron curtain frontier near here before dawn.

Children Lead Guards



2 CZECHS FLEE TO W. GERMANY IN LIGHT PLANE

Ask Refuge in West from Red Rule

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov. 22 (AP)—Two anti-communist Czechs flew over the iron curtain to Bavaria in a small sports plane today and asked United States



2 Russ Students Hijack 2d Soviet Plane to Turkey

SINOP, Turkey, Oct. 27 (AP)—Two Soviet students blindfolded the pilot of a small Russian passenger plane today and guided the aircraft across the Turkish border to this Black Sea coastal town. It was the second hijacking of a Soviet plane to Turkey in two weeks.

The Czech-made twin-engine craft of the Soviet airline Aeroflot was on a domestic flight from Kerch to Krasnodar, north of the Black Sea, when two of the three passengers aboard took it over.

Russian teacher hikes to freedom

STOCKHOLM (UPI)—Alexander was no ballet star or famous scientist, but rather a physics teacher who wanted out of the Soviet Union with a yearning so deep that he undertook a 2,500-mile journey to freedom.

He walked, rowed, and hitchhiked his way across the Soviet Union, Finland, Norway, and Sweden for 28 days—braving risky border crossings and living off berries and wild mushrooms. He

Troops Keep Iron Curtain Fences Tight

Editor Describes Border Episode

[Donald Starr, foreign editor of the Chicago Tribune, is on a European tour. In this, the fourth of a series of articles, he gives his impressions of life behind the iron curtain.]

BY DONALD STARR



Balloon wafts eight to freedom

from Tribune Wire Service

MALLA, Germany—Two East German couples and their four children, crammed together on a tiny platform, made a daring escape to the West early Sunday in a homemade hot air balloon.

It was the first time a balloon had been used to escape from East Germany, West German border police said.

Since the Berlin Wall was built 18 years ago refugees have tunneled under the border, flown over it in aircraft, and broken through it in trucks, automobiles, and trains. One man even escaped in a submarine he built.

"It is amazing the balloon could remain airborne," a police spokesman said. "Eight people and four gas containers were on a platform of 1.96 square meters (4.5 feet long by 4.5 feet wide). The balloon was the size of a small tent."

THE BALLOON was attached by one-inch thick ropes to a six-foot square iron

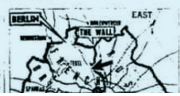


57 Flee in Tunnel Under Berlin Wall



Unidentified East German crawling thru tunnel beneath communist wall toward freedom in West Berlin. Route was used by 57 persons to flee East Berlin.

BY LARRY RUE
(Bonn Bureau Chief)
(Pictures on back page)
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)
BERLIN, Oct. 5—A Communist East German border



COULD PEOPLE TRAVEL LEGALLY ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN?

The freedom of movement in the free democratic world, and particularly in the Schengen area of the European Union, is a dream come true for people of the former Eastern bloc.

During the Cold War, the situation was completely different. Western Europeans needed a visa to travel to Eastern European countries, and they had to exchange a mandatory amount of hard currency per day. The travellers were searched on the borders and closely monitored by the secret police while in the country.

Citizens of the Eastern bloc practically could not travel to the West. Only “politically reliable” persons got the permission, and the procedure was very complicated. It had to be planned long months or even years in advance. Let us take, for example, former Czechoslovakia. Passports were issued only to those who had no suspicious records with the secret police. A passport alone allowed its holder to travel to some Eastern bloc countries. To be able to travel to the West, a so-called *Foreign currency pledge* had to be applied for from the state bank, because it was illegal to keep Western currency at home. This application underwent a secret police cross-check. The next step was a “selection procedure”. Statistically, only every tenth application passed this hurdle. Only with the *Foreign currency pledge* was it possible to obtain foreign currency for travel. The next phase was to apply for the so-called *Travel endorsement* from the secret police. For this, a recommendation by the employer, the trade unions and for men, a surrender of the military service book was required. If and after the *Travel endorsement* was given, foreign visas had to be applied for. Through the entire process, the secret police monitored the applicants, often also contacting them before and after the travel.

On the border itself, the screening procedure was very repressive. The crossing points in the Iron Curtain were carefully guarded zones surrounded by barbed wire and manned by Border guard patrols, customs officers and secret police officers who carefully checked the travellers and their documents. People and vehicles were often thoroughly searched for anything forbidden, such as foreign currency, forbidden literature, etc.

A Czechoslovak Communist passport with the Travel endorsement.



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

When the newly constituted United Nations Organisation adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, the Soviet Union and its satellite countries abstained from voting. From their establishment after WWII until their fall in 1989-1991, the Communist dictatorships in the Eastern bloc violated all articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on a daily basis. No wonder that citizens of the Communist countries wanted to escape to the free, democratic world! Can you identify some of the violations of human rights which our game characters suffered under Communism?

The 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in brief:

1. Right to Equality
2. Freedom from Discrimination
3. Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security
4. Freedom from Slavery
5. Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment
6. Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law
7. Right to Equality before the Law
8. Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal
9. Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile
10. Right to Fair Public Hearing
11. Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
12. Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence
13. Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country
14. Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution
15. Right to a Nationality and the Freedom Change It
16. Right to Marriage and Family
17. Right to Own Property
18. Freedom of Belief and Religion
19. Freedom of Opinion and Information
20. Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
21. Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
22. Right to Social Security
23. Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions
24. Right to Rest and Leisure
25. Right to Adequate Living Standard
26. Right to Education
27. Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
28. Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
29. Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
30. Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights



A Border guard patrol boat on the Danube in Bratislava, then Czechoslovakia; barriers and barbed-wire fence on the Western border of former Czechoslovakia.

4 Poles Steal Rickety Plane, Fly to Sweden

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Home Wire Service

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BY LARRY RUE
[Bonn Bureau Chief]



RADIO REVEALS REAL TRAGEDIES OF IRON CURTAIN

BY ANTON REMENIH

WBBM the other night broadcast a rather remarkable and somewhat unnerving documentary on life behind the iron curtain in Europe. It was titled Thru the Curtain. Arthur Godfrey was the narrator.

The program carried the actual voices of ordinary people who lost their fortunes and risked lives to escape from what one called a "perverted life" imposed by communist overlords. All the voices were anonymous, of course, to prevent retaliation upon families left behind in eastern Europe.

Little Things Carry Punch

Those who told their personal stories included a Hungarian newspaper man and a business man, a Lithuanian professor, a Czechoslovakian girl, a Latvian, and a Pole.

The little things they said carried the punch. I think it was the Hungarian business man who

BALKAN 'COLD WAR' FRONTIER HEAVILY ARMED

ACROSS BALTIC IN 12 FT. CANOE

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Aug. 16 [Reuters]—Two young Poles put another link in chain of bizarre iron curtain escapes when they arrived here today after paddling a fragile canoe for 48 hours and 55 miles across the stormy Baltic sea.

12 ESCAPE IRON CURTAIN IN TWO LOCOMOTIVES

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 27 (AP)—Twelve Polish railroad workers broke thru the iron curtain in two stolen locomotives to seek asylum in western Europe, it was reported here today. They made the 17 day journey across Germany to Courtral, Belgium, with the help of a forged collective passport. Seven of the 12 continued on to France. The escape was made possible because two Belgian made

BERLIN TRAINS CUT TO SINGLE LINE BY REDS

Act After 25 Flee on Hijacked Locomotive

Power Dives Thru 'Iron Curtain'

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, May 30 (AP)—A round-faced, shy Polish pilot told tonight how he brought his Russian MIG-15 fighter thru the "iron curtain" to freedom at supersonic speeds. He said it was to escape from the "sufferings, threatening arrests and the communist regime in my beloved homeland."

4 SEIZE CZECH AIR LINER AND FLY TO FREEDOM

SAME AUTO, NEW ESCAPE

Pair Flee E. Berlin in Low-Slung Car

BERLIN, July 29 (AP)—A young Argentinian who rescued his sweetheart from East Berlin by driving a sports car beneath a border barrier drove the same car a young Austrian used for the same purpose three months before.

GIRLS ESCAPE THRU TUNNEL

Reds Blow It Up as 24 Wait to Flee

REFUGEES TELL OF UNEASY RED GRIP ON BALTIC