



The pink line indicates the actual course of the Wall and equivalent border barriers (e.g. the mesh fencing on the Marschall Bridge), including sections of the outer wall (in front of the Reichstag Building) and sections of the inner wall (on the eastern bank of the Spree).

By contrast, the red dotted line marks the political border, which ran along the western bank of the bend in the River Spree. This point was therefore particularly dangerous for escapees who swam across the Spree: Only once they had reached the western bank were they no longer vulnerable to attacks by the GDR border troops. Crosses set into the riverside railings commemorate the people who died in these circumstances.

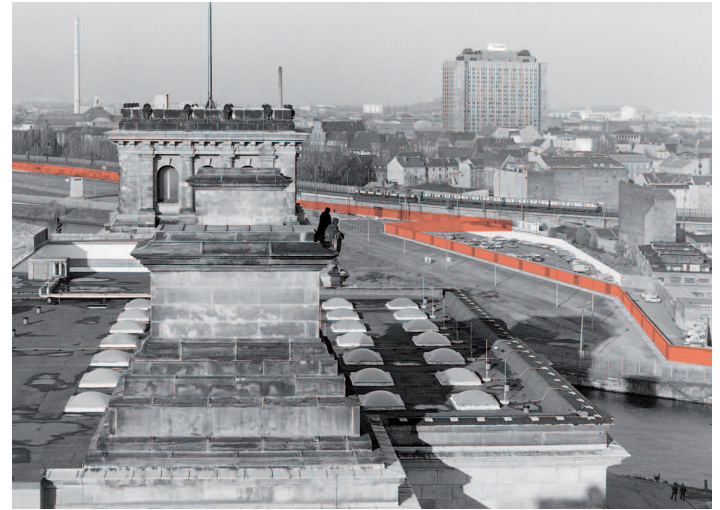


The Wall Memorial in the Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building of the German Bundestag

The Wall Memorial

Following the construction of the Berlin Wall on 13 August 1961, hundreds of people were killed attempting to escape across it or lost their lives when they fell foul of the GDR's border regime. According to the latest research, they included 136 victims who died at the Berlin Wall alone. However, it was not just in Berlin that people were killed. Others lost their lives on the German-German border, when attempting to escape over the Baltic Sea or at the GDR's borders with other states. Soldiers who had deserted from the GDR's National People's Army, personnel serving with

the border troops and members of the USSR's armed forces also died at the Berlin Wall or the German-German border. Many GDR citizens were arrested as they were preparing to escape or survived their attempt to get through the fortifications with serious injuries. There are still no conclusive overall statistics that cover all the victims. However, committed individuals, private organisations and public institutions in the West began compiling what could be found out about fatal incidents after the Wall had been built. This information and further research conducted since the border was



opened form the basis for the numbers quoted at the Wall Memorial. The figures corroborated up until December 2003 are displayed on segments of the Wall arranged by year in chronological order. These concrete panels were preserved and decorated by Ben Wagin. Stephan Braunfels, the architect of the Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building, had the segments arranged so that they follow the original course of the Wall, which cuts into the architecture like a painful foreign body.

The Wall Memorial is open to the public.

German Bundestag, Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building, Schiffbauerdamm, 10117 Berlin

Opening times:

Fri to Sun: 11 to 17 hrs

Free entrance.

Opposite: The Berlin Wall in 1985, view to the east from the Reichstag Building

Above: The Berlin Wall in 1989, view to the north from the Reichstag Building