

The Berlin Candy Bomber

THE MUSICAL

An Original Musical based on the inspiring true story of a humble farm boy from Utah, wide-eyed children in war torn West Berlin, two sticks of gum, and how they all came together to help the world heal after WWII.

Based on the biography of the same title
by Gail Halvorsen and a play of the same title
by Lisa Wygant, Betsy Isom and Lisa Bean

Script and Lyrics by Tamra Adamson
Additional Script by Deborah Ericson

Original Music and Lyrics by Lamar Holley

CAST LIST (in order of appearance)

HALVORSEN
NEWSIES 1, 2, and 3
MURROW
GUMM GIRLS (3)
JUDY (no lines)
SOVIET COMRADE
SIR ROBERTSON
GENERAL DuBOIS
GENERAL CLAY
MAYOR
SOVIET SOLDIERS (no lines, any given number)
COL HAUN
ELKINS (Airman)
PICKERING (Airman)
CASKEY (Airman)
HUNT (Airman)
FRAU SCHULTZ
FRAU SIMON
FRAU ZIMMERMAN
GRETCHEN (Fence kid)
INGE (Fence kid)
MARIA (Small Fence kid)
PETER (Short Fence kid)
CLARA (Fence kid)
TOMAS (Small Fence kid)
HANS (Fence kid)
KATRINA (Fence kid)
ANNA (Lead Fence kid)
1ST LIEUTENANT
MERCEDES
GISELA
CHILD (at Press Conference)
ANDREWS SISTERS (3)
NELLIE
DELIVERY MEN (no lines, 2-3)
MR. GIBSON
EVA
GEORGE
ELSA
NURSE
MIRACLE MOTHER/FATHER
TEDDY BEAR GIRL
(46 solo/speaking parts)

ENSEMBLES

- BERLINERS:** most of cast. Citizens of Berlin in family units. Most are mothers and children. Act I-scene 1, Act II-scenes 6
- AIRMEN:** mostly male ensemble. US pilots and air force men. Act I-scene 2
- BERLIN CHILDREN:** children who play/interact with Halvorsen at the airfield fence, eat oatmeal, write letters, and catch parachutes. Act I-scenes 4,6,8,9;
Act II-scenes 3,4
- USO:** male and female dance ensemble. Military personnel in leather jackets and poodle skirts. Act II-scene 2
- HOSPITAL:** large ensemble including Airmen, doctors, nurses, child patients, etc. Act II-scene 5

Scene List

ACT I

Incidental Music: "Overture"

- Scene 1: History of German Occupation
FULL CAST, BERLINERS ENSEMBLE
Incidental Music: "Extra, Extra"
Musical Number: "Berlin Blockade/So Glad for Sky"
- Scene 2: The Boys in Alabama
GENERAL CLAY, COL HAUN, ELKINS, HALVORSEN,
PICKERING, AIRMEN ENSEMBLE
- Scene 3: Children Playing
FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN ENSEMBLE
Musical Number: "The Games We Play"
- Scene 4: The Airmen Arrive
HALVORSEN, PICKERING, CASKEY, ELKINS, HUNT,
1ST LIEUTENANT
- Scene 5 A/B: The Zimmerman's/The Schultz's
FRAUS ZIMMERMAN and SCHULTZ, PETER, HANS, ANNA,
MARIA
Musical Number: "Something Sweet"
- Scene 6: Mercedes' Chickens
MERCEDES, FRAU SIMON
Musical Number: "Don't Be Chicken You Chickens"
- Scene 7 A/B/C: Kids at the Fence/Templehof Runway/Wiggle Wings
FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN ENSEMBLE, HALVORSEN,
PICKERING
- Scene 8: Press Conference
FULL CAST
Musical Number: "Love Is the Language"

Intermission

ACT II

Incidental Music: "Entr'acte"

- Scene 1: Ration Cards and Candy
PICKERING, CASKEY, HUNT, ELKINS, HALVORSEN
Musical Number: "Parachutes"
- Scene 2: USO Dance
ANDREW SISTERS, NELLIE, HALVORSEN, AIRMEN,
USO ENSEMBLE
Musical Number: "Parachutes Reprise"
- Scene 3 A/B: The First Drop/Drops Continue
FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN ENSEMBLE, HALVORSEN
Incidental Music: "Parachute Drop"

Scene 4 A/B: Candy Bomber's Fame Grows/Dear Uncle Wiggle Wings
HALVORSEN, COL HAUN, NELLIE, GISELA, DELIVERY
MEN, PETER, MERCEDES, FRAU ZIMMERMAN, BERLIN
CHILDREN ENSEMBLE, MURROW, GUMM GIRLS
Musical Number: "Dear Chocolate Pilot"

Scene 5: The Polio Hospital
HALVORSEN, MR. GIBSON, EVA, GEORGE, ELSA, NURSE,
HOSPITAL ENSEMBLE
Musical Number: "Bubblegum Pop"

Scene 6: Lives Change for the Better
NEWSIES, MAYOR, HALVORSEN, GISELA, NELLIE, KLAUS,
MOTHER/FATHER, BERLINERS ENSEMBLE
Musical Number: "Floating Miracle"

Scene 7 A/B: Farewell/Love is the Language
FULL CAST, TEDDY BEAR GIRL
Musical Number: "Love Is the Language Reprise"

ACT I

MUSICAL OVERTURE

Video of Gail Halvorsen giving Opening Statement:

"Hello my friends! I'm glad you're here. Gather around. I have a love story to share with you. Well, it's not about sweethearts - but it's a love story about two sticks of gum - some children just like you - and Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen - That's me! I was a Lieutenant then, some 66 years ago. I had a little bit more hair... You know, I remember it just like it was yesterday...Look! Here I come!"

[He looks left, and points in that direction, as the "young Gail HALVORSEN" walks out from behind screen/scrim and solutes.]

HALVORSEN

Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen - reporting for duty, Sir! (walks forward, addressing audience) My story begins when the greatest war the world had ever known was finally over. It was the end of World War II...

Scene 1

History of German Occupation

(FULL CAST, BERLINERS ENSEMBLE)

"Extra, Extra" Incidental Music

[BERLINERS ENSEMBLE members enter in family groups (made up mostly of women and children) and mime talking excitedly to each other. Family groups are spread out through whole stage. A prominent family group is MAYOR with his wife and children. MURROW, JUDY and GUMM GIRLS are located far to one side of stage with an "ON AIR" sign above them. MURROW standing as if in front of a camera with clipboard, GUMM GIRLS at tall mic preparing to sing, JUDY typing on an old typewriter. At the opposite far side of the stage, a map of Germany is hanging over a table representing the Potsdam Conference of 1945. Newsies run onto center stage waving newspapers in the air.]

NEWSIE 1

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

NEWSIE 2

Victory in Europe!

NEWSIE 3

V.E. Day proclaimed!

END MUSIC.

[BERLINERS ENSEMBLE freezes. Side stage, JUDY tears paper out of typewriter and hands it to MURROW.]

MURROW

Thank you, Judy. (clears throat)

*[*ON AIR* sign lights up.]*

MURROW (continued)

Edward R. Murrow reporting on May 7, 1945: World War II in Europe comes to a close. That's right ladies and gentlemen, the war is over!

GUMM GIRLS

(sing-song) "There'll be love and laughter and joy ever after tomorrow just you wait and see."

*[*ON AIR* sign off]*

[JUDY hands paper to MURROW]

MURROW

August 2, 1945: Following the Conference of Potsdam, it is decided that war-torn Germany will be occupied by the Allies. Germany will be divided into 4 sectors..

[As the four Generals claim their areas, they each grab a section off or point to a section of the map of Germany.]

SOVIET COMRADE

The Soviet Union will control all of East Germany.

SIR ROBERTSON

Great Britain will oversee Northwest Germany.

GENERAL DUBOIS

La France will manage Central Germany.

GENERAL CLAY

And the 'stars and stripes' will wave in Southwestern Germany!

GUMM GIRLS

(sing-song) "He was the Boogie-woogie Bugle Boy of Company
B ..."

FRAU SIMON

But what about Berlin? The capital is in ruins!

GENERAL CLAY

Yeah - what about Berlin?!

SOVIET COMRADE

*(Pointing at the large star labeled Berlin in the Russian
section of the Map)* Berlin is 110 miles inside the Russian
sector - we'll take care of Berlin!

GENERAL CLAY

Hold on, partner! A little Western influence in the capital city
is what the rest of us Allies want!

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

The Berliners want it too!

SOVIET COMRADE

Fine! Divide it in half! East Berlin shall be Soviet-run.

SIR ROBERTSON

And Western Berlin can try out free enterprise, gov'ner!

GENERAL CLAY

Democracy in West Berlin - I like it!

GENERAL DuBOIS

Viva Berlin!

GENERAL CLAY

Done! *(Puts out hand - a break - the others join him)*

SIR ROBERTSON & GENERAL DuBOIS

Done!

SOVIET COMRADE

And... done. (*Reluctantly adds his hand to the "break"*)

[GENERAL CLAY, GENERAL DuBOIS, and SIR ROBERTSON freeze. SOVIET COMRADE exits]

MURROW

So starts the huge undertaking of rebuilding bombed-out, badly damaged Berlin...

*[*ON AIR* off. BERLINERS ENSEMBLE un-freezes and begins miming excitement again.]*

MAYOR

(Stepping forward from group of Western Berliners) Western Berliners! We have our destiny in our own hands! It's time to clean-up, fix-up, and start over!

WEST BERLINERS

Ja! Ja! Ve can do it! Ve do it now! Schnell, schnell! Los! Ja!

[SOVIET COMRADE enters through back stage center and walks to front, center stage with line of soldiers following, dividing BERLINERS ENSEMBLE in half.]

SOVIET COMRADE

Eastern Berliners! We shall tell you when and how you fit into our five-year plan.

[Exits]

EAST BERLINERS

Oh. (*Hang heads, dejected*)

[BERLINERS ENSEMBLE freeze]

*[*ON AIR* on. JUDY hands paper to MURROW]*

MURROW

June 24, 1948. And now this news bulletin - brought to you by...

GUMM GIRLS

(sing-song) "Wrigley, Wrigley Doublemint Gum!" Chew some today!

MURROW

Soviets blockade Western Berlin! Roads, railways, and waterways closed. No people nor supplies can get in or out.

[*ON AIR* off]

GENERAL DUBOIS

Sacre Bleu! Can zey do zis?

SIR ROBERTSON

Our War treaty only promises three air passages into Berlin. We didn't specify anything about overland ground access.

GENERAL CLAY

Looks like Stalin's blockading West Berlin to cause food riots!

GENERAL DUBOIS

Food riots! Pour quoi?

GENERAL CLAY

West Berlin's making East Berlin look bad.

GENERAL DUBOIS

If the Soviets can force the West Berliners to riot, they'll have a reason to go in and take over all of Berlin.

SIR ROBERTSON

This is absolutely unacceptable. We cannot allow this to happen.

GENERAL DUBOIS

Zee peopuhl of West Berlin need our 'elp.

MUSICAL NUMBER

"BERLIN BLOCKADE/SO GLAD FOR SKY"

FULL BERLINERS ENSEMBLE

(staccato)

Nothing comes in. Nothing goes out.
That's what the Berlin Blockade is all about.
Nothing by car. Nothing by train. Nothing by boat.
It's all in vain.

WEST BERLINERS

Nothing comes in.

EAST BERLINERS

Nothing comes in.

WEST BERLINERS

Nothing goes out.

EAST BERLINERS

Nothing goes out.

ALL BERLINERS

That's what the Berlin Blockade is all about.

WEST BERLINERS

Nothing by car.

EAST BERLINERS

Nothing by car.

WEST BERLINERS

Nothing by train.

EAST BERLINERS

Nothing by train

WEST BERLINERS

Nothing by boat.

EAST BERLINERS

Our Survival

FULL BERLINERS ENSEMBLE

Is all in Vain

SIR ROBERTSON

But what about the sky?

GENERAL CLAY

What about the sky?

SIR ROBERTSON

What about the Sky?

GENERAL DuBOIS

What about the Sky!?

GENERAL CLAY (spoken)

We'll fly supplies in to them - flour and oatmeal for food.

SIR ROBERTSON (spoken)

Coal for fuel!

GENERAL CLAY (spoken)

We'll call it...um, Oh! "Operation Vittles!"

SIR ROBERTSON (spoken)

The three air corridors are guaranteed by treaty. The Soviets wouldn't dare attack!

GENERAL CLAY (spoken)

Let's hope not - or it'll be the start of World War III.

GENERAL CLAY

So glad for sky!
It's like a bridge that we can fly.
So glad for sky.
Let's make a bridge, it's worth a try.
Let's not start a war.
It hurt so much before.
Let's you and I-
Let's use the sky!

GENERAL CLAY, GENERAL DuBOIS, SIR ROBERTSON
Let's use the sky!!

END MUSIC.

[All exit except GUMM GIRLS/MURROW]

TRANSITIONAL SCENE

[*ON AIR*; Judy hands paper]

MURROW

June 26, 1948: Military airlift to bring supplies to West Berlin begins. In response to the Soviet blockade, pilots from America, France, and Great Britain will fly food, medical

supplies, and fuel into the besieged city in what is called "Operation Vittles."

[*ON AIR* off]

[PLANE SOUND]

Scene 2

The Boys in Alabama

(GENERAL CLAY, COL HAUN, ELKINS, HALVORSEN, PICKERING, AIRMEN ENSEMBLE)

[GENERAL CLAY picks up a phone and dials. Sound of phone ringing. COL HAUN answers on opposite side of the stage.]

COL HAUN

Lt. Col. Haun here in sunny Alabama.

GENERAL CLAY

Haun, we need pilots to fly supplies into West Berlin. Can your men do that?

COL HAUN

Sir, it's true what they say about our boys. We can deliver anything, anywhere, anytime.

GENERAL CLAY

Great! Get them here on the double!

COL HAUN

Yes, Sir! *(Hangs up the phone. Walks to AIRMEN ENSEMBLE and reads off list of names. Airmen stand and come forward at attention when called)* New assignment, boys! Elkins, Hunt, Caskey, Pickering, Sowa. Sowa...

ELKINS

(saluting) Pete Sowa's on a flight to Panama, Sir.

COL HAUN

Boys, you've been assigned to Rhein-Main Airbase in Germany. You've just become part of Operation Vittles—the Great Military Airlift to Berlin. You're expected to report in two days.

[AIRMEN commotion. HALVORSEN finds PICKERING]

HALVORSEN

Pickering, what is this I hear about my favorite co-pilot heading off to Germany without me?

PICKERING

I've been assigned to Pete Sowa.

HALVORSEN

Pete Sowa?! Didn't his wife just give birth to twins? He's not gonna want to go to Germany!

PICKERING

I know, but really, what can we do?

HALVORSEN

(to self) Huh. Well, things are moving slowly with my girl back home. Maybe... *(makes up mind and walks to COL HAUN, saluting)* Sir, I heard Sowa is assigned to fly the airlift.

COL HAUN

Yes, that's correct.

HALVORSEN

Sir, Sowa just had TWO babies!... well, his wife did.

COL HAUN

And...

HALVORSEN

I-I'd like to volunteer to take his place, Sir.

COL HAUN

(Gives HALVORSEN a long look) Very well. You'll be expected to report in two days.

HALVORSEN

Thank you, sir.

[Both salute. HALVORSEN walks back to PICKERING]

PICKERING

Well, what was all that?

HALVORSEN

I'm takin' Sowa's place! Here we go again pal! *(to AIRMEN ENSEMBLE)* Off we go boys! A pilot's life is never dull!

PICKERING

Don't mind him, guys. He's just nuts about flying.

Scene 3

Children Playing

(FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN ENSEMBLE)

[The airfield fence stretches across the back of the stage. BERLIN CHILDREN are playing various games around the stage like hopscotch, yoyos, making flower chains, swords, pattycake, and airplanes.. With each line, FENCE KIDS enter cautiously.]

GRETCHEN

Watch out for the bombers, Inge!

INGE

But Gretchen, it's been so long since we got to play!

MARIA

(Clinging to ANNA's leg) Anna, I'm scared!

PETER

The bombs haven't come for a long time, Maria - it's safe now... I think...

CLARA

Peter's right. Don't worry - this is the airfield, where the siren tower is. If there's a raid, we'll be sure to hear the warning!

TOMAS

But it's two whole blocks to the shelter, Clara!

HANS

It's okay, Tomas. We can hide here! Right, Katrina?

KATRINA

Hans has a point. It's quiet NOW -let's play!

MARIA

I'm still scared!

ANNA

(Dragging MARIA across stage) Come on, Maria!

MUSICAL NUMBER
"THE GAMES WE PLAY"

FENCE KIDS

The games we play to keep our fears away
The names we say to keep bad dreams at bay
While the trouble's never ending,
We'll keep ourselves pretending that we're fine

CLARA

Fall in line!

FENCE KIDS & BERLIN CHILDREN (ALL)

For the games we play!
The songs we sing to brighten everything
The hope we bring will lift us like a string
In a world of trepidation,
We'll use imagination to feel free

ANNA

Follow me!

ALL

To the games we play!

BOYS

Wouldn't it be the best?
If we were pirates with a treasure chest!

GIRLS

And wouldn't it feel so grand
To be a princess in a magical land!

MARIA

A magical land!

TOMAS

A magical land!

BOYS (GIRLS echo)

The games (the games) we play (we play)
To keep our fears away (to keep our fears away)

GIRLS (BOYS echo)

The names (the names) we say (we say)

ALL

To keep bad dreams at bay!
While the troubles never ending,
We'll keep ourselves pretending that we're fine.

CLARA

Fall in line!

ALL

For the games we play!

INGE

For the games we play!

ALL

For the games we play!

[Suddenly there is the sound of an approaching plane. (PLANE SOUND) ALL duck and hide, older kids protecting younger ones. Once quiet, the children look up cautiously, searching the skies. Then they rush off in various directions, still scared.]

END MUSIC.

Scene 4

The Airmen Arrive

(HALVORSEN, PICKERING, CASKEY, ELKINS, HUNT, 1st LIEUTENANT)

[PLANE SOUND. Nose of plane appears or lights up and Airmen walk out from behind as HALVORSEN joins them. 1st Lieutenant enters opposite stage]

1st LIEUTENANT

You the new guys fresh off the plane from Brookley?

PICKERING

I guess that's what you'd call us.

CASKEY

Fresh, though, we ain't. *(Waving hand toward armpit)*

HALVORSEN

Truer words were never spoken...where can we grab a shower?

1st LIEUTENANT

Who've we got? [*Each solutes as name is called*] Pickering, Halvorsen, Caskey, Hunt, Elkins... Welcome to Rhein-Main, you're all due to report for immediate departure to Berlin.

HUNT

What? You gotta be kidding!

ELKINS

We just flew over, non-stop, from the U.S. - give us a break!

1st LIEUTENANT

Your planes already have a truck load of vittles backed up to them. They'll be ready for pre-flight in 30 minutes.

[*AIRMEN exchange stunned and glowering looks*]

HALVORSEN

(*chuckles*) And away we go!

TRANSITIONAL SCENE

[*ON AIR*]

GUMM GIRLS SING JINGLE FOR SCENE CHANGE

"*Cream of Wheat*"

Cream of Wheat is so good to eat
And we have it every day.
You sing a song and it makes you strong
And it makes you shout "Hooray"
It's good for growing babies
and grownups too, to eat.
For all the family's breakfast
You can't beat Cream of Wheat.

[*ON AIR* *off*]

Scene 5A

The Zimmerman's

(PETER, FRAU ZIMMERMAN)

[*Two kitchen scenes are set, one on each side of the stage. In between are various tables/groupings of BERLIN CHILDREN, each with a bowl.*]

*Lights up only on the Zimmerman kitchen.
The PLANE SOUND continues as FRAU ZIMMERMAN is
setting the table. At the plane's loudest point,
she accidentally drops a dish and PETER runs in
frightened.]*

PETER

Mutti! Mutti! *(Looking around in terror)* Momma! *(runs into
mother's arms)*

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

Peter, I'm here... It's alright, dear. It was just a dish,
that's all.

PETER

I thought it was the bombs again. Are you sure we're safe?
Shouldn't we go to the basement just in case?

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

No, no, Peter, I'm sure we're safe. The bombs have stopped.
Those days are over. *(Begins setting table)*

PETER

But Momma, I heard a plane fly real low, overhead.

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

That was a different type of plane. Those others don't fly over
anymore. Now the planes are bringing food, not bombs. *(She hugs
him and he smiles)* Now you eat or there will be no treats.

PETER

Treats? Will there be bonbons? Something sweet?

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

Probably not - but you never know what the Americans might bring
on those big planes.

*[Zimmermans freeze while light comes up on the
Schultz Family opposite side of stage]*

Scene 5B

The Schultz's

(HANS, ANNA, MARIA, FRAU SCHULTZ, PETER, FRAU ZIMMERMAN, HALVORSEN)

*[FRAU SCHULTZ enters with pot and serves her children
at a table]*

HANS

What?! Oatmeal again? Isn't there anything else?

ANNA

I'd love some strawberries!

MARIA

Yum! Strawberries ... and cream!

FRAU SCHULTZ

(In disbelief) Now, now, I was just telling the other moms, yesterday, that you are pleasant children. (Children begin to protest) Even! (children stop) Even, in our current circumstances, I expect you to be grateful for what you have.

MARIA

(whiny) But I hardly remember what strawberries and cream tastes like.

[FRAU SCHULTZ slumps into a chair and looks defeated.]

FRAU SCHULTZ

Children, you must understand that these pilots are risking their lives every day. They could be shot down. They could crash into buildings if they don't land just so. There are planes coming into Berlin every five minutes but there are millions to feed and they only have room for the necessities.

HANS

We know, Mutti. We just dream of more. Just fresh fruits or vegetables of any kind. Something with *flavor*.

ANNA

Something... sweet!

MUSICAL NUMBER
"SOMETHING SWEET"

ANNA

Something Sweet! Something Good!
Just some strawberries and milk,
A little sugar, it would help!

PETER

Something Sweet! Something Tasty!
Oh my taste buds are so bored
I just can't take it anymore!

FRAU ZIMMERMAN and FRAU SCHULTZ
Children, please be patient
You know we're very lucky
Without all that these planes bring
We'd have nothing.

BOYS

Something Sweet! Not so Bland.
No more oatmeal, not again
Could we please have marzipan?

GIRLS

Something Sweet! Something Sticky!
Honey, maple, I don't care
I would eat it anywhere!

ALL BERLIN CHILDREN

(Simultaneous with Fraus)

Something Sweet! Something Good!
Just some strawberries and milk,
A little sugar, it would help!

FRAU ZIMMERMAN and FRAU SCHULTZ

(Simultaneous with children)

Children please be patient
You know we're very lucky.
Without all that these planes bring

ALL (except MARIA)

We'd have nothing!

FRAU SCHULTZ (spoken)

You must be grateful for what we have. Oatmeal is what the planes are bringing these days. I'll choose plain food and *freedom* over fancy foods and oppression any day!

FRAU ZIMMERMAN

I choose Freedom!

PETER

I choose Freedom!

FRAU SCHULTZ
I choose Freedom!

BOYS
Freedom!

GIRLS
Freedom!

MARIA
And Something Sweet!

END MUSIC.

[PETER and mom hug/All Schultz's look in shock at stubborn, grinning MARIA as stage goes dark]

Scene 6
Mercedes' Chickens

(MERCEDES, FRAU SIMON, HALVORSEN)

[PLANE SOUND. MERCEDES enters with empty basket and begins feeding chickens]

MUSICAL NUMBER
"DON'T BE CHICKEN YOU CHICKENS"

MERCEDES (spoken, sighing)
Still no eggs...

MERCEDES
Don't be chicken you chickens!
There's no reason for that.
Without your eggs chickens,
We would all fall flat!

Just because their flying,
Doesn't mean you're dying!

Don't be chicken you chickens!
Even if you're fear stricken.
'Cause we'll probably thicken you up
And eat you for dinner!

END MUSIC.

MERCEDES

Here, chicky, chicky, chicky! Don't be so afraid! I know those planes flying overhead are loud, but Momma says that if you don't start laying eggs soon, we're going to have *chicken soup* for dinner! Come on, girls. I know times are hard. I only have this one dress; Momma has to go to work; and you only get a few worms from the yard. That's the way it is in Berlin these days.

FRAU SIMON

(Enters) Mercedes! I have to go to work now. Go inside and lock yourself in. And sweetheart, give up on those chickens - they're as good as broth.

MERCEDES

If those planes would just stop flying right over the yard, I'm sure the chickens would start laying again.

FRAU SIMON

Those planes are saving us, honey. Don't ever wish them away.

MERCEDES

Yes, I guess so. I wish I could go to the airfield and see them land. Anna and Maria get to go every day.

FRAU SIMON

I won't allow you to go down there - you get enough of the planes here, I thought...hmmm?

MERCEDES

But all the kids go down there, and watch from the fence.

FRAU SIMON

Maybe sometime when I'm not working we can go together.
(MERCEDDES smiles, but only slightly; she knows this will not happen) Meanwhile, think how good a chicken sandwich would taste!

MERCEDES

(Indignant, but playful) Momma!

FRAU SIMON

Tschuss, my darling! Auf wiedersehen, chicky-chicks!

[FRAU SIMON exits, MERCEDES sits next to chickens looking dejected. As lights fade on MERCEDES, they rise on the kids at the fence]

Scene 7A

Kids at the Fence

(FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN)

[PLANE SOUND and "SOMETHING SWEET" music plays. Fence extends from upstage corner at an angle. FENCE KIDS are behind fence at airfield. BERLIN CHILDREN play quietly behind them.]

HANS

Wow! That's a big one!

CLARA

It's a C-54 for sure!

ANNA

That's the biggest one I've ever seen!

MARIA

I wonder what they've got inside.

GRETCHEN

Probably oatmeal.

HANS

Yuck! No more oatmeal! I'll take anything but oatmeal!

GRETCHEN

Well, then, flour - for more pancakes.

CLARA

I'll take anything - I'm hungry!

ANNA

I hear they're bringing fresh *milch*.

KATRINA

But it's only for the little kids.

HANS

So I guess Maria is getting some, then!

[MARIA glares and punches HANS in the arm.]

PETER

Ha! Or Tomas, here! (messes Tomas' hair)

TOMAS

Hey! I'm not *that* small!

PETER

Well, I need to head home. *Bis bald!* (exits)

ALL

Bye! *Auf Wiedersehen! Bis bald!* (return to watching planes)

MARIA

(smiles as she looks skyward) Just think, Tomas. Real. Milk.

MARIA & TOMAS

Ahh!

[FENCE KIDS start playing amongst themselves quietly. Lights dim but kids remain]

Scene 7B

Templehof Runway

(PICKERING, HALVORSEN)

[PLANE SOUND, Nose of Plane lights up/appears as PICKERING and HALVORSEN enter.]

PICKERING

That was quite a flight, Hal. Can you believe how low we fly in over those apartment buildings?

HALVORSEN

Unbelievable! Have some gum? (reaches in pocket and pulls out pack of gum. Hands one to PICKERING)

PICKERING

Sure, thanks. This Templehof Runway really is 'right in the middle of Berlin.' Takes a piece of tricky flying every time we come in.

HALVORSEN

Yeah. It's all been full of surprises for me. When the German men come.. you know, like the ones in the tattered clothes that came to help us unload... They each took a moment to shake my hand.

PICKERING

Mine too! It's surprising. I mean, we were enemies just months ago.

HALVERSON

I was expecting to find malice toward us here, but all I've seen is gratitude. It's incredible. (*Notices children at fence*) Hey, do you see those kids standing down by the airfield fence? I wonder what they're doing.

PICKERING

Probably admiring your amazing flying skills.

[They both laugh; HALVORSEN jokingly slugs PICKERING.]

HALVORSEN

Let's see how well you do on the way out. Then we'll see who's laughing. Come on, our plane should be unloaded. Let's get back to base for another load.

[As PICKERING exits, HALVORSEN addresses the audience.]

But I just couldn't stop thinkin' about those kids. I decided to talk to them on my next flight in. Even brought my camera. (*Pulls camera from satchel and walks toward fence*)

Scene 7C

Uncle Wiggle Wings

(FENCE KIDS, Berlin Children, HALVORSEN)

[HALVORSEN stops at fence and takes a picture of the kids. The FENCE KIDS, who had been playing quietly, come over to the fence.]

HALVORSEN

Goo-ten Tock! Vee gate es ... ee-nen?

[FENCE KIDS say various German phrases at once with excitement. HALVORSEN looks confused. BERLIN CHILDREN also gather beside and behind the FENCE KIDS]

HANS

Guten Tag!

ANNA

Gut! Danke!

CLARA

Sind Sie Amerikaner?

GRETCHEN

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

[HALVORSEN recognizes the last phrase]

HALVORSEN

Ahh-nein. Sorry, kids, that's about all the German I know. Any of you speak English?

ANNA

Ja, ja. Are you American?

HANS

Wat did you bring today?

MARIA

(Shyly tugging on his pant leg) Haben Sie heute Milch?

HALVORSEN

No milk today. Just coal and oatmeal, so far.

ANNA

Danke for that. We are pleased to meet an American pilot. My name is Anna.

HALVORSEN

How come you kids aren't in school?

ANNA

Excuse me, *Herr*, but there are very few schools in Berlin right now. Only the older children can go.

HANS

Life is our teacher now. Most of us have lost parents, brothers or sisters ... first in the Allied bombings...

ANNA

But it was worse when the Soviets came. We've seen life from both sides of the border. Freedom is better.

HALVORSEN

You've certainly experienced a lot in your short lives.

ANNA

This is true, but we are grateful for what we have.

HALVORSEN

Yeah... Well, I guess I better get back. It was nice meeting you.

SOME BERLIN CHILDREN

Auf Wiedersehen!

[HALVORSEN starts to walk away. As he does so, he pulls two sticks of gum from his pocket, considers and turns back, tearing each in half.]

HALVORSEN

Um... I have some chewing gum. Just two pieces.

ALL FENCE KIDS AND BERLIN CHILDREN

*Kaugummi?! (They accept it almost reverently) Mmm... Danke!
Danke! Vow!*

[The wrappers and foil are passed around - each tearing off a strip, inhaling or licking the remains.]

HALVORSEN

Look, why don't I drop some more of this gum - and even chocolate - to you, out of my plane, the next daylight trip over Berlin?

KATRINA

Vas ist das? What did he say?

INGE

Vas? *Schokoladen?*

HANS

Gum?

HALVORSEN

(Worried look.) Now listen...I will do this only if the children who catch the packets share equally with everyone in the group.

MARIA AND TOMAS

Jawohl! Jawohl!

CLARA

Ve vill do it!

ANNA

But, *Herr*, there are so many planes - how will we know it's you?

HALVORSEN

Hmm... *(Gets an idea)* When I used to fly over my folks at home, I'd wiggle my wings so they'd know it was me. I'll do the same for you! When I get overhead, I'll wiggle my wings! That'll be the signal!

ANNA

Viggle? Vat is 'viggle'?

[HALVORSEN demonstrates enthusiastically holding out arms and tipping back and forth.]

HALVORSEN

Like this. Wah, wah!

FENCE KIDS AND BERLIN CHILDREN

(All respond with same motion) Oh, ja - wah, wah!

ANNA

Ja! Wiggle-wings!

TRANSITIONAL SCENE

*[*ON AIR*]*

*GUMM GIRLS SING JINGLE FOR SCENE CHANGE
SEE DIRECTOR'S NOTES*

"Pepsodent"

You'll wonder where the yellow went, when you brush your teeth
with Pepsodent. Pepsodent! Pepsodent!
A brighter smile right away with Pepsodent!
Get some today!

You'll wonder where the yellow went, when you brush your teeth
with Pepsodent. Pepsodent! Pepsodent!

[*ON AIR* off]

Scene 8

Press Conference

(FULL CAST/BERLINER ENSEMBLE)

[GENERAL CLAY, MAYOR, GENERAL DUBOIS, SIR ROBERTSON and COL. HAUN are at the microphone on a platform. BERLINER ENSEMBLE gathers around platform to watch Press Conference. MURROW and JUDY are close to platform just away from the crowd. This time JUDY has the clipboard. AIRMEN gather downstage by an airplane with HALVORSEN in front. GISELA and CHILD are at the back of the crowd and opposite HALVORSEN.]

MURROW

Edward R. Murrow here, reporting live from Templehof Runway in West Berlin. Operations Vittles is a splendid success! Regional leaders and Military advisors are about to make a landmark public announcement. We take you now to the Mayor as he opens the gala press conference.

MAYOR

Welcome members of the press, City Officials, Allied leaders, service men, and special guests.

COL. HAUN

We have called this special conference to announce that the trial runs of the "Operation Vittles" have been a success!

[ALL applause]

GENERAL CLAY

Basic food items are actually reaching the blockaded inhabitants of West Berlin.

[ALL applause]

MAYOR

The citizens of Western Berlin thank the allied forces and the brave pilots for risking their lives on our behalf (indicates allied leaders and airmen!

[ALL applause. AIRMEN and Allies wave in thanks]

COL. HAUN

Because the test runs have been successful, the number of flights will be extended and "Operation Vittles" will go into full swing!

MAYOR

The air deliveries of flour, oatmeal, medical supplies and coal continue!

[ALL applause]

MURROW

With the extra flights, will there be anything new added to the list of supplies brought in?

GENERAL CLAY

We can only get the basics in now.

SIR ROBERTSON

Basics first, gov'ner!

GENERAL DuBOIS

Zee bread of life!

[ALL applause. HALVORSEN turns away slightly, hand on chin, raised eyebrows, then smiles. HALVORSEN notices CHILD and waves at him/her, plays peek-a-boo.]

GENERAL CLAY

A toast! To the feeding of Democracy and the liberation of West Berlin!

SIR ROBERTSON

Jolly Good!

GENERAL DUBOIS

Viva Democracy!

[Those at mic mime toast and silently congratulate each other as they EXIT. MURROW/JUDY follow. ALL EXIT except AIRMEN, HALVORSEN, GISELA, and CHILD. AIRMEN mime conversation and start to walk off. By now CHILD has come over to HALVORSEN who offers a piece of gum. HALVORSEN makes motions of putting gum in mouth. CHILD follows and is happily surprised at the flavor-GISELA notices and hurries across stage.]

GISELA

Oh! *Entschuldigung* ((N-shoe-Iee-goong))
(To HALVORSEN) *Bitte!* ((bit-a))! I am so sorry.
(to CHILD) *Komm!* ((comb))

HALVORSEN

No, it's ok! I invited him/her.

CHILD

Gut mall!

GISELA

Oh! Thank you, Herr! But I cannot pay for this.

HALVORSEN

Oh, no. It's a gift! Please.

[GISELA nods and smiles at HALVORSEN. CHILD grins happily as GISELA and CHILD exit. HALVORSEN watches them leave. AIRMEN cease miming]

HUNT

Is he comin'? (*motioning to HALVORSEN*)

CASKEY

Hey! Halverson!

ELKINS

He's in a trance!

PICKERING

Halvorsen! You comin'? Press conference is over!

HALVORSEN

Oh! Um... Sure... (*makes to leave but stops and smiles*)

*[Lights dim with only spotlight on HALVORSEN.
AIRMEN Exit]*

MUSICAL NUMBER
"LOVE IS THE LANGUAGE"

HALVORSEN

From the sky I couldn't see their faces.
These felt like imaginary places.
I barely understood a word before,
But now I know we're saying something more.

Love is the language that children know
Love is the language that I can show
You can see it in their eyes,
And hear it in their laughter.
After all is said and done,
Love is the language!

In the air I couldn't hear their voices.
Mine were only solitary choices.
I hardly had a chance to say a word,
But now I think I know just what they heard.

Love is the language that children know
Love is the language that I can show
You can see it in their eyes,
And hear it in their laughter.
After all is said and done,
Love is the language!

All they've seen are planes and cargo.
I want to give something more!
That's what love is for!!

Love is the language that children know
Love is the language that I can show
You can see it in their eyes,
And hear it in their laughter.
After all is said and done,
Love is the language!
Love is the language!
Love is the Language!

END MUSIC.

*****INTERMISSION*****

ACT II

"ENTR'ACTE" Incidental Music

Scene 1

Ration Cards and Candy

(PICKERING, CASKEY, HUNT, ELKINS, HALVORSEN, AIRMEN ENSEMBLE?)

[AIRMEN enter their bunk and begin stretching and preparing for bed. HALVORSEN goes to them excitedly]

HALVORSEN

Hey, guys, I need your ration cards - for gum, chocolate, stuff like that. Can you help me out here?

HUNT

What? You got a sweet tooth or something?

HALVORSEN

Nah - it's for the German kids - along the Templehof runway. I gave them a coupla sticks of Doublemint gum ... You shoulda seen their faces! They could use a little somethin' to brighten their day. I'm gonna drop candy and gum to them from the plane! So whaddaya say?

ELKINS

(Walking to HALVORSEN with cards) Fine by me. Here's some of my loot. But how are you going to drop it from the plane - and not *(taps cards on HALVORSEN's head)* clonk 'em on their heads?

PICKERING

(Comes between the two and pulls out his own handkerchief)
Easy, you lunk-heads! Tie the candy to handkerchief parachutes *(Lets the handkerchief fall to show how it floats)*

MUSICAL NUMBER

"PARACHUTES"

HALVORSEN/CASKEY *(spoken)*

Handkerchiefs?!

PICKERING (*spoken*)

Yes, handkerchiefs!

PICKERING

Haven't you made parachutes before?
What do you think a handkerchief is for?
Parachutes!

HALVORSEN

Parachutes!

CASKEY

Parachutes!

PICKERING

Will make it Possible!

HALVORSEN

Possible!

CASKEY

Possible!

PICKERING

Oh and parachutes!

HALVORSEN/CASKEY (*spoken*)

With Handkerchiefs?

PICKERING

With handkerchiefs!
Are very plausible!

HALVORSEN

Plausible!

CASKEY

Plausible!

PICKERING

Parachutes!

HALVORSEN

Parachutes!

CASKEY

Parachutes!

PICKERING

Will make it practical!

HALVORSEN

Practical!

CASKEY

Practical!

PICKERING

Oh, and Parachutes!

HALVORSEN/CASKEY

With Handkerchiefs!

PICKERING

With handkerchiefs!
Are very tactical!

HALVORSEN

Tactical!

CASKEY

Tactical!

ALL

(+ELKINS/HUNT/AIRMEN ENSEMBLE)

Candy needs those parachutes so it won't go splat!
Candy needs those parachutes so it won't fall flat!

HALVORSEN

Candy!

ALL (except HALVORSEN)

Yes Candy!

ALL

Nee-eeds!

PICKERING

Parachutes!

PICKERING

(Stuffs his hanky in HALVORSEN's pocket) Sounds like fun, Hal, but mark my words, you're gonna get us in one big mess of trouble.

HALVORSEN

Maybe, maybe not. Now, cough up the goodies, pal!

TRANSITIONAL SCENE *(while USO scene is set)*

*[*ON AIR*]*

*GUMM GIRLS SING JINGLE FOR SCENE CHANGE
SEE DIRECTOR'S NOTES*

"Chiquita Banana"

I'm Chiquita banana and I've come to say - Bananas have to ripen in a certain way - When they are fleck'd with brown and have a golden hue - Bananas taste the best and are best for you - You can put them in a salad - You can put them in a pie-aye - Any way you want to eat them - It's impossible to beat them - But, bananas like the climate of the very, very tropical equator - So you should never put bananas in the refrigerator.

No, No, No, No!

*[*ON AIR* off]*

Scene 2

USO Dance

(ANDREW SISTERS, NELLIE, HALVORSEN, AIRMEN, USO ENSEMBLE)

[Servicemen including AIRMEN run in with girls in poodle skirts including NELLIE (USO ENSEMBLE). Three girls enter as "The ANDREWS SISTERS." The crowd gets excited, reactions to seeing famous performers. They perform "Sing, Sing, Sing" or "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Couples swing dance. HALVORSEN enters with a box of candy and handkerchiefs and sits downstage left/right to begin tying them together. When the song finishes, the music goes to slower waltz music. Couples begin to waltz. AIRMEN and the girls they were dancing with group together. They single out NELLIE and push her toward HALVORSEN to ask him to dance. She timidly approaches him]

NELLIE

Would you like to dance?

HALVORSEN

Oh, hi Nellie. Sorry, I'm not much for dancing..

NELLIE

Oh, I understand. (Turns, looking hurt.)

HALVORSEN

No, that's not what I mean! I'd love to dance with you, it's just that, well, I'm working on a project here, would you like to help?

NELLIE

What kind of project?

[She sits down with him and he shows her the handkerchief and is "explaining" his plan to her as the waltz fades into MUSICAL NUMBER.]

MUSICAL NUMBER
"PARACHUTES REPRISE"

HALVORSEN

Parachutes!

NELLIE (*spoken*)

Parachutes?

HALVORSEN

Will help the candy fall!

NELLIE (*spoken*)

Candy Fall?

HALVORSEN

Oh and Parachutes!

NELLIE (*spoken*)

With Handkerchiefs?

HALVORSEN

With Handkerchiefs! Will float to one and all!

NELLIE

One and All!

BOTH/+AIRMEN

They need Parachutes!

Scene 3A

The First Drop

(FENCE KIDS, BERLIN CHILDREN)

[PLANE SOUND. FENCE KIDS are sitting and watching the sky. BERLIN CHILDREN are playing like they did in Act I, scene 4. Fence stretches across back of stage]

HANS

Do you really think he will come?

CLARA

Maybe he forgot.

GRETCHEN

Since yesterday?

INGE

I'm sure he won't forget.

KATRINA

Maybe he can't fly today.

MARIA

Maybe he got in trouble.

[PLANE SOUND. Small lit up plane flies overhead. As it nears the children, it wiggles its wings]

TOMAS

Maybe...

ANNA

There he is! Onkel Vackel-fluegel! Uncle Wiggle Wings!

[Three small parachutes fall - FENCE KIDS excitedly catch and wave thanks.]

ALL

Danke!!!

[Plane goes dark as FENCE KIDS excitedly exit]

Scene 3B

Drops Continue

(HALVORSEN, BERLIN CHILDREN)

"Parachute Drop" Incidental Music

[Spotlight comes back on plane nose and HALVORSEN addresses audience from the plane window. As he speaks, more parachutes fall. BERLIN CHILDREN run in groups and catch. They begin sharing the 'loot' while they run to the fence and wave their handkerchiefs in thanks. Scene plays out a few times--while kids gather at fence waving parachutes like banners and miming cheering. Once HALVORSEN finishes speaking, spotlight goes off on plane. Once music ends and plane sound stops, BERLIN CHILDREN exit stage]

HALVORSEN

Well, that was just the start. Once we'd dropped that first candy "bomb" - we wanted to drop more. Pretty soon the kids gathered in mobs at the airfield fence! I was getting a little concerned about attracting too much attention and ending up court martialed but the children were so happy. I didn't dare stop.

["PARACHUTES" Music plays while airplane noises sound as BERLIN CHILDREN run on in small groups. HALVORSEN tosses a parachute to each group of excited children, squealing and grabbing for them--

TRANSITIONAL SCENE (*while kitchen scenes return to stage*)

*[*ON AIR*]*

GUMM GIRLS SING JINGLE FOR SCENE CHANGE

"Pepsi-cola"

Pepsi-Cola hits the spot,
12 full ounces, that's a lot,
Twice as much for a nickel too,
Pepsi-Cola is the Drink for you!
Nickel, nickel, nickel, nickle,
Trickle, trickle, trickle, trickle...

MURROW

Folks, Edward R. Murrow here. You're not going to believe this, but "Operation Vittles" has a Good Samaritan dubbed "The Candy Bomber." Little parachutes with candies and gum have been dropping all over Berlin. One of them nearly hit this reporter on the head.

[*ON AIR* off]

Scene 4A

The Candy Bomber's Fame Grows

(HALVORSEN, COL. HAUN, NELLIE, GISELA, DELIVERY MEN)

HALVORSEN

(*side stage in spotlight*) Letters started arriving at Templehof Central Airport in Berlin addressed to Onkel Vackel-Fluegel (*smiles and points at self*) Uncle Wiggle Wings.

COL. HAUN

(Yelling from offstage) Halvorsen!

[Enter COL. HAUN making HALVORSEN jump]

HALVORSEN

Colonel Haun! (*Comes to attention*) Sir!

COL. HAUN

What in the world have you been doing?!

HALVORSEN

Flying like mad, Sir!

COL. HAUN

And...? [*Haun gets no reply, HALVORSEN looks nervous*] Are you Uncle Wiggle Wings?

HALVORSEN

(slight pause) I am, Sir! *(Salutes)*

COL. HAUN

Ah-hah! *(Getting close to his face with eyes narrowed)* I've been discussing what to do with you all day. *(Pauses with clenched jaw then suddenly smiles)* Congratulations! Fine idea! *(Shakes hand)*. Keep it up, Halvorsen!

HALVORSEN

(Surprised) Th-thank you, Sir!

COL. HAUN

We're going to make this a world-wide event! You know Gisela and Nellie. *(ENTER NELLIE and GISELA. They exchange a glance at each other and then smile at HALVORSEN.)* These lovely ladies are your new assistants. And these *(motioning toward off stage)* are for you, start reading.

[Music from "Something Sweet Reprise" plays while a large mailbag of letters is carried on by DELIVERY man. GISELA and NELLIE, each with a clipboard, motion for the bag to be set down by a table. HALVORSEN leans on the table and picks up a letter.]

MUSICAL NUMBER

"SOMETHING SWEET REPRISE"

GISELA and NELLIE

Something Sweet! Something Tasty!
Let's give them something Sweet!!

[GISELA and MARY nod at each other and exit.]

Scene 4B

Dear Uncle Wiggle Wings

*(HALVORSEN, PETER, MERCEDES, FRAU ZIMMERMAN, MURROW,
BERLIN CHILDREN ENSEMBLE)*

[HALVORSEN reaches into bag and grabs a handful of letters. He sits to read while curtain in back is pulled aside to reveal shadow scrim. The kitchens from Act I have returned only this time

*they belong to the Zimmermans and the Simons.
PETER and MERCEDES are in their respective
kitchens. BERLIN CHILDREN are scattered around
stage as before but with pieces of paper as if
writing letters]*

MUSICAL NUMBER
"DEAR CHOCOLATE PILOT"

Voices of children reading letters is heard as intro to song.

MERCEDES

Dear Chocolate Pilot,
My name is Mercedes
But my mom calls me little lady.
Could you bring me some chocolate, maybe?
Dear Chocolate Pilot,
I'm the house with the chickens
When you come, I'll be sittin'
I'll be waiting for you to make this wish come true.
I don't care if my chickens are scared!
I hope I'm making myself clear.
I just want you... To Drop It Here!
Drop It Here!
Drop It Here!

PETER

I'm too short to run for candy
But all will be fine and dandy
If you'll be a pal and fly along the big canal.
And at the second bridge turn right
And you'll know that you are right
When you reach the bombed out house on the corner.
At 2pm every day I'll be standing near
I just want you... To Drop It Here!
(spoken) I'm including a map.
Drop It Here!

BERLIN CHILDREN

Dear Chocolate Pilot,
I'm sending this letter,
A little candy would taste much better!
I'm watching for your wings when they wiggle!
And when they fly in the sky,

I hope you hear us cheer!
We just ask you... to Drop It Here!

MERCEDES, PETER, and BERLINERS ENSEMBLE
Drop It Here! Drop It Here!
Drop It Here!!

HALVORSEN
"...white chickens"... signed "Mercedes Simon." And a map from Peter Zimmerman. (chuckles) Okay, Mercedes and Peter, these are for you!

[HALVORSEN grabs some parachutes, nods and walks off stage. "Drop It Here" Music plays as MERCEDES and PETER Exit. There is the sound of a plane and two parachutes fall behind lit up scrim. PETER returns]

PETER
Dear Uncle Wiggle Wings: No chocolate yet. You are a pilot? I gave you a map! How did you guys win the war anyway?

HALVORSEN
(Returning to stage reading and shaking head, smiling--looks up)
Oh, Peter, I've got to find a sure way to get this candy to you.

[HALVORSEN puts a parachute with candy inside a small box and exits. FRAU ZIMMERMAN walks in holding a package that looks exactly the same.]

FRAU ZIMMERMAN
Peter, a package has come for you!

PETER
(taking package, looking in) Schokoladen! Danke, Wiggle Wings!

MUSIC ENDS.

TRANSITIONAL SCENE

*[*ON AIR*]*

MURROW
The press has dubbed the Candy Bomber's sweet surprises "Operation Little Vittles."

GUMM GIRLS

Want to get in on the fun? Send candy, gum, or chocolates to:
Lt. Gail Halvorsen! America's own Candy Bomber in Rhein Mein,
Germany!

[*ON AIR* off]

Scene 5

The Polio Hospital

(HALVORSEN, MR. GIBSON, EVA, GEORGE, ELSA, NURSE, HOSPITAL ENSEMBLE)

["Something Sweet" music plays as DELIVERY MEN start carting boxes of candy across stage. One box is labeled in big letters "PARIS BUBBLE GUM". Gum box is set with bags of letters. HALVORSEN enters with Old Fashioned telephone and sits on gum box. MR. GIBSON enters opposite HALVORSEN also holding a phone and large pile of letters. Scrim lights up. The shadow shows EVA in a wheelchair writing a letter. Sound of phone ringing.]

HALVORSEN

[Picks up receiver] Hello, Gail Halvorsen here.

MR. GIBSON

Lt. Halvorsen, this is American Health Officer, James MR. GIBSON. There are some special children at this Polio Hospital in West Berlin who have a few letters for you... *(With a smile, as he FINGERS through a large pile of letters in his hand)*

[EVA behind scrim reads aloud as she mimes writing]

EVA

Dear Candy Bomber, We have read about your drops and heard of it on the radio. Every time we hear an airplane close, we hope it could be Uncle Wiggly Wings. Many of us cannot walk or run, but the doctors and nurses here have promised any candy parachutes they find, they'll bring to our bedsides! Could you try to drop some nearby - especially for us? P.S. They also said you can ignore the quiet sign on the streets outside the hospital, and fly as low as you need to! Love, Eva

[Scrim light off]

HALVORSEN

(Speaks into the receiver, but almost musing to himself) Wow! No self-pity, almost apologetic that she can't retrieve the parachutes we drop. *(Redirects his attention to the phone call.)* MR. GIBSON, how many children are there in that hospital?

MR. GIBSON

300, Sir.

HALVORSEN

Well, I think we just found a nice home for this case of Bubble Gum. *(Patting the box with his hand)*

[They both hang up phones. MR. GIBSON steps behind scrim to retrieve EVA, wheels her to center stage. HALVORSEN motions for AIRMEN, GISELA, and NELLIE to join him and then carries case of bubble gum to center stage. BERLIN CHILDREN PATIENTS (including ELSA and GEORGE) arrive on crutches/cots. The children make sounds of excitement and awe as HALVORSEN, AIRMEN, MR GIBSON, GISELA, and NELLIE hand out gum.]

ELSA

Oh my, George! *(Sniffing hers with joy)* What is it?

GEORGE

(Throwing one into the air and catching it) I've never seen anything like it, Elsa!

MR. GIBSON

(Aside, remarks slyly but reluctantly to Halvorsen) You know, I have to admit, I was practically a bubble-blowing champion in my younger days. These children need a demonstration. Just give me a few minutes to practice.

[As the patients start chewing, MR. GIBSON steps aside and blows a couple bubbles.]

MR. GIBSON

(Pleased with his efforts) I've still got it!

[MR. GIBSON returns to the group and the bubble blowing begins. The children chew and blow their own bubbles as "BUBBLEGUM POP" music begins. A

prim and proper NURSE enters with a stack of neatly folded white sheets. She stops in shock]

NURSE

(Somewhat flustered) We'll be picking gum out of these pillow cases for weeks... *(Smiles and softens as she absorbs the elation of the children and turns to HALVORSEN)*...and it will be worth every minute of it!

MUSICAL NUMBER
"BUBBLEGUM POP!"

MR. GIBSON (spoken)

That's right!!

MR. GIBSON and HALVORSEN

What a great way to forget about your trouble!
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble pop!

MR. GIBSON, HALVORSEN, EVA

What a great day to forget about the rubble!
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble pop!
(ALL: Pop, pop!)

ALL

When the rain goes drip, drip drop
And the water will not stop
Never let your spirit flop
In the end you'll come out on top

Oh, what a great way to forget about your trouble!
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble,
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble,
Bubblegum! Makes my troubles POP!

[choreographed dance routine]

ALL

What a great way to forget about your trouble!
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble Pop!

What a great day to forget about the rubble!
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble Pop!
(Pop, pop!)

When the rain goes drip, drip drop

And the water will not stop
Never let your spirit flop
In the end you'll come out on top

Oh, what a great way to forget about your trouble!
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble,
Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Bubble,
Bubblegum! Makes my troubles POP!

END MUSIC.

Scene 6

Lives Change for the Better

(NEWSIES, MAYOR, HALVORSEN, GISELA, NELLIE, KLAUS, MOTHER/FATHER, BERLINERS
ENSEMBLE)

NEWSIE 1

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

NEWSIE 2

Berlin children still getting wowed by American Candy Bomber!

NEWSIE 3

American Schools getting involved and making a difference!

NEWSIE 1

Children sharing with children across the seas!

[Music and airplane sounds. Shadow scrim lights up. GISELA and NELLIE hustle across stage with more shipment boxes and a bag of mail. Parachutes fall behind scrim. MAYOR and HALVORSEN enter to join GISELA and NELLIE.]

MAYOR

Well, Lt. Halvorsen, that about finishes up today's candy donations. It's a real pleasure to work with you. *(Shakes hand)*

HALVORSEN

Amazing!

GISELA

A candy manufacturer has now joined with 22 stateside schools in donating goodies for your candy project!

NELLIE

"Operation Little Vittles" has its own assembly building in Chicopee, Massachusetts at your disposal. We'll top 18 tons of donated candy before long!

HALVORSEN

Fan-tastic!!

[Music Plays as ALL Exit except HALVORSEN who picks up another letter. Muddy KLAUS walks on opposite. Shadows act out letter behind scrim]

CLARA

(Reciting letter) I was on my way to school when we heard the humming of a Rosinen bomber. Suddenly there was great excitement! Shouting, running, pointing at the sky! I saw the parachutes falling and knew I had to get one. One fell right in the middle of a pond. The other kids held back but I threw off my shoes and in I went!! The water was cold and dirty but I got the parachute! Then I realized school had begun and I was soaked and muddy. When I told my teacher, who is very strict, she congratulated me and allowed me to go home and change. Even my mother overlooked the dirt and filth and rejoiced with me!!
Sincerely, Klaus Rickowski

[HALVORSEN chuckles and PICKERINGS up another letter. "Floating Miracle" Music plays while worried FATHER OR MOTHER enters opposite HALVORSEN. Shadows play out scene behind scrim]

MOTHER

(Reciting letter while scene plays out behind scrim). It was the eve before my son's birthday. My husband had tried to carve him a wooden horse as a gift but people who believe all Germans to be great wood carvers are another testimony against those who set up stereotypes. Dawn was approaching and we still had no gift for our son. We stared out the window a long time and then my husband spied a white cloth! With trembling hands he used a stick and retrieved a parachute... with candy attached!!! Something very small had come to fill a very large need!! It was a miracle!

[Scrim light off, Fence on across back]

MUSICAL NUMBER
"FLOATING MIRACLE"

MOTHER

What will I do? What will I give?
We've only got enough to live.

CLARA

What will I do? What will I dare?
I've never had the chance to care.

MOTHER/CLARA

Floating Miracle.
It's my floating miracle.
Open up your eyes.
It's coming from the skies.
My floating miracle.

*[BERLINERS ENSEMBLE enters slowly in same family units
as Act I, scene 1]*

Floating Miracle.
It's my floating miracle.
Open up your eyes.
It's coming from the skies.
My floating miracle.

HALVORSEN

What did I do? Why did I care?
A couple sticks of gum to share.

BERLINERS ENSEMBLE

Floating Miracle.

HALVORSEN

They called it a floating miracle.

BERLINERS ENSEMBLE

Open up your eyes.
It's coming from the skies.
My floating miracle.

END MUSIC.

Scene 7A
Farewell

(MURROW, HALVORSEN, COL. HAUN, AIRMEN, TEDDY BEAR GIRL, BERLIN CHILDREN)

["Love is the Language" Music plays as HALVORSEN stands and comes to center stage, addressing audience]

HALVORSEN

Miracle... *(Shaking head and coming to center stage)* Who would have thought?! All this from just two pieces of Wrigley's gum!!! And because of that thousands received over 21 tons of candy over 14 months.

[*ON AIR*]

MURROW

Edward R. Murrow reporting January, 1949. That's right, America. Gail Halvorsen, the Candy Bomber who has brought so much joy to thousands and thousands of German children, will end his tour as a Berlin airlift pilot this month. However, his candy bombing operation will continue until the end of the blockade.

[AIRMEN and COL. HAUN enter. HALVORSEN removes hat from head, places on CASKEY's head. TEDDY BEAR GIRL comes forward]

HALVORSEN

One last goodbye, my friends.

[Children hug him; some hand him flowers]

TEDDY BEAR GIRL

Please - you take my teddy bear? Good care take of him for me.

HALVORSEN

No - you keep your teddy bear. Really...

TEDDY BEAR GIRL

Good luck he will bring you - you and your friends on your flights to Berlin.

HALVORSEN

(Takes bear) Such love, such trust. I - I thank you.

MURROW

Well, that's all for now here in West Berlin, folks. This is Edward R. Murrow signing off. Good night and good luck!

[*ON AIR* *off*]

[MURROW and GUMM GIRLS exit]

Scene 7B
Love Is the Language
(FINALE)
(FULL CAST)

FRAU SCHULTZ

(spotlight) The Soviet blockade ended in 1949. Operation Vittles and the Great Airlift helped to stave off WWII. It can be considered the first battle in what would be known as the Cold War, which lasted almost 40 years. During the Airlift, 31 Americans, 39 Brits, and 7 Germans were killed on or above the airfields; but millions of lives were saved and changed for the better.

FRAU SIMON

In 1969, Uncle Wiggle Wings returned to Germany a hero- to meet with some of the now grown-up children- and their children to whom he had once dropped candy. In 1999, he was inducted into the Airlift/Tanker Hall of Fame.

(HAL walks to meet the children from the fence wearing adult clothing and all the letter writers dressed differently but holding something to remind of their part. A medal is placed around his neck. Play out in front of stage)

HALVERSON

Do you know what still amazes me? Your silent gratitude at the fence. Not one of you begged or asked for more- not one. You taught me a great lesson. I thank you.

MUSICAL NUMBER
"LOVE IS THE LANGUAGE REPRISE"

HALVORSEN

Love is the language that children know
Love is the language that I can show
You can see it in their eyes,

Hear it in their laughter.
After all is said and done,
Love is the language!

[HALVORSEN turns to look at scrim/video--fade to
black]

Video of Gail Halvorsen giving Closing Statement:

"I've often wondered what would have happened if I had chewed all five sticks before I met those kids. Well, my Dad always told me, 'Son, out of little things proceedeth that which is great.' And for two sticks of gum at the fence that day, they changed the rest of my life. So the little things, those little decisions, put your footsteps on the path of least of where you end up. Those little children made a BIG impact on my life.

They always kept their eyes to the sky. Keep looking up my friends, keep looking up!"

[At "keep looking up," he looks up as if he can see the parachutes and parachutes fall from the ceiling. FULL CAST enters singing for curtain call]

MUSICAL NUMBER CONTINUES

"LOVE IS THE LANGUAGE REPRISE"

(whole or part of song to be used here, dependent on curtain call line up)

ALL

Love is the language that children know
Love is the language that I can show
You can see it in their eyes,
Hear it in their laughter.
After all is said and done,
Love is the language!
Love is the language!
Love is the language!
Love is the language!

THE END