

Name: _____

Uncle Wiggly Wings

By Anita Kim Venegas



At the end of World War II, millions of families in Europe struggled to find housing, food, and jobs. Roads, factories, and farms had been destroyed in the war. People in Berlin struggled more than most because of the city's location partly inside Soviet-controlled territory.

The United States created a plan to help rebuild Europe. Military planes

He told the children of his plan, and they were very excited. He told them to watch for the plane that wiggled its wings from side to side. For this, Lieutenant Halvorsen became known as Uncle Wiggly Wings.

Halvorsen knew if he just dropped candy from the plane it would fall like



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to give them. All he had was two sticks of gum. Lieutenant Halvorsen broke the sticks into several pieces and handed them out.

Halvorsen wanted to give more to these children. He decided he would fly over the airport and drop candy!



Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen's airplane dropping candy to the children of Berlin.

candy. This project became known as Operation Little Vittles.

When the news of Halvorsen's project reached the United States, candy companies donated bubble gum and chocolate bars for the candy drops. Life Savers donated at least 1,200 rolls to the Little Vittles project.

Halvorsen received hundreds of drawings and thank-you letters from the children. They were not only grateful for the candy, but for the food and supplies that arrived daily. Recovery from the war took many years, but one pilot, Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen, made it a bit sweeter for the children of Berlin.

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1. Why was Lieutenant Halvorsen in Berlin?
 - a. He was born there.
 - b. He was bringing supplies to the people in the city.
 - c. He got a job making candy in the city.
 - d. He was learning to be a pilot there.
2. What did Lieutenant Halvorsen first give to the children watching the planes?
 - a. Life Savers
 - b. chocolate



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Based on what you read in the article, what does the underlined word most likely mean?

- a. airplanes
 - b. supplies of food
 - c. military battles
 - d. airports
5. What company donated at least 1,200 rolls of their product to the Little Vittles project? _____
6. How did Lieutenant Halvorsen earn the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Wings"?

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Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. _____ recovery | a. something used to treat illness |
| 2. _____ territory | b. a title used for an officer of a certain rank in the military |



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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 5. _____ runway | take off and land |
| 6. _____ Lieutenant | f. to give something in order to help those in need |
| 7. _____ parachute | g. a small cloth for wiping your face |
| 8. _____ cargo | h. a piece of gear, usually made of cloth, that is used to soften the drop from an airplane |
| 9. _____ donate | i. goods carried on a vehicle |

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In the article, "Uncle Wiggly Wings," you learned how one military officer brightened the lives of many children after World War II.

On the lines below, write about something you've done to brighten someone's life or to help people. This can include volunteering for an organization, donating to charity, or helping a friend or family member with something.



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ANSWER KEY

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1. Why was Lieutenant Halvorsen in Berlin?

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6. How did Lieutenant Halvorsen earn the nickname "Uncle Wiggly Wings"?

**He earned the nickname by wiggling his airplane's wings
before dropping the candy.**

ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

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8. i. cargo

h. a piece of gear, usually made of cloth, that is used to soften the drop from an airplane

9. f. donate

i. goods carried on a vehicle