

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

## OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY / TAG DER EINHEIT How Oktober 3 became German Unity Day?

November 9th, 1989

At around 7pm on this November evening, East German official Günter Schabowski addressed journalists at a press conference which would later become world famous.

The East German government had revised one of its new travel laws. German Democratic Republic (GDR) citizens could now travel to West Berlin without having to meet the former strict requirements.

Upon being asked when this would happen, he looked down at his sheet.

"As far as I know... effective immediately, without delay."

Hearing the news in near-disbelief, thousands of East Berliners nonetheless flocked towards the Wall.

The numbers swamped border guards – and at 11.30 pm, **Stasi officer Harald Jäger was forced to open the Bornholmer Strasse crossing**, allowing citizens into West Berlin.

After 28 years, the Berlin Wall had fallen.



People celebrate atop the Berlin Wall on November 11th 1989, two days after its fall.