

Escape to Freedom

Kevin Y.

The trapping of people inside a huge jail shakes me. The government is like a hawk that is constantly stalking me. It is an evil all-knowing eye laughing at us suffer. I can't live how I want to because it pushes me down when I want to get up. East Berlin is not a country, it is a jail.

The hardest thing I had to face in my life is to survive in modern day East Berlin. This is harder than my long, filthy, and tiring working conditions. The government steals the money of the innocent and makes them suffer. The people on top just want to get rich and to show their power. I cannot live my life like this anymore! I know that West Berlin is a democratic nation. In West Berlin, I could get a job, vote for my leader, and get more freedom. Freedom is the condition I have always wanted and dreamed of. My action plan is clear, to escape my homeland and flee to West Berlin.

I am going to run across the border with all my stuff and escape to West Berlin. I am going to leave the very next day and press my luck. I have had enough of this communist nation. I need freedom. Even though I could die if I get caught, I will still put my life on the line. I must simply make my way into West Berlin.

My departure date is tomorrow, August 14, 1961. I haven't told anyone about my escape. My plan is to get a distraction so I can pass free. Then I plan to run across the guarded border stretch. Nothing that can block me is in the border stretch, so it won't be too hard to escape. The border stretch is just a guarded piece of land.

Here I come to the guarded border. A shock wave is all over me. I approach the guards and see a newly built huge wall behind them. I can't face this wall with a plan made up on the spot. Even though if I distract the guards, I won't be able to go across this big and strong wall. I miserably go home.

I draw out my action plan. My new plan is to put on a huge firework show above the border wall. The show will get the guards on both sides distracted. When the guards are distracted, I will escape by putting a firecracker on the wall. The firecracker will make a hole in the wall and I will get through.

One week later, I gathered all my explosives and walked to a kilometer from the Berlin Wall. At first, I am going to make a firework show. I launch the first few fireworks to get the guards distracted. The guards look up and cheer! Now I launch the rest of my firework collection.

The guards all look up at the show! They are happy and distracted! I run closer to the wall. I slingshot a firecracker into the wall, and it explodes to make a hole in the wall. Some guards cover the hole and some go on patrol. My action plan is foiled. Police arrest me for destroying the wall.

As the police lock me up in the jail cell, I do not admit defeat. My little holding cell is old and built of wood. I check the room for escape paths, and I don't find any. There is no more hope to escape East Berlin.

I get a bowl of salad for lunch. As I notice the material of the cell, an idea pops up in my head. I eat just enough of the salad to get me full, and I put the remaining in the corner of the cell to rot. After a day, termites start coming to eat the remaining salad. When the salad is gone, they start eating the wood. The corner of the cell becomes a hole, and termites keep getting in to eat.

After a week, I eat all my lunch for energy. I push on the wall, my jail cell falls apart, and I run up and away. I escaped the jail, so I have a chance to escape East Berlin.

I grab two ladders with secret rope clamps and go to the wall. I set down the ladders on the edge of the wall. The security guards see it and pull it down. However, when the security guard pulls down the ladder, a rope connects the top of the wall to the ground. While lots of guards in East Berlin try their hardest to pull down the super durable ropes, the guards on the other side pull on the wall to prevent the wall from falling. I throw my bungee cord and latch it on the top of the closest rope. I stretch the bungee cord, release, and go up. I get on top of the wall, and long jump to the other side while the guards are distracted right on the edge of the wall. The guards in East Berlin can't get across the tall and strong wall, and the guards in West Berlin don't see me, so that buys me lots of time to get to West Berlin without getting caught.

The impossible has been done by me. In West Berlin, I am going to get a job and save up for a place to live. The homeless conditions in West Berlin are better than all the moments of life in East Berlin combined. When I get a place to live, I can set up a bright future for myself and my descendants. I, Steven, can look at myself as a better and stronger person for eternity.