



## *Herbert Hoover Library*

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210 Parkside Drive  
West Branch, IA 52358-0488  
319-643-5301 [www.hoover.archives.gov](http://www.hoover.archives.gov)

Opening January 26 at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum  
Along the Iron Curtain: Germany's Cold War Frontier

West Branch, Iowa – Opening at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum January 26 and running through March 24, is the new exhibit, *Along the Iron Curtain: Germany's Cold War Frontier*. This exhibit tells the story of the American soldiers charged with guarding the border between East Germany and West Germany.

“Iron Curtain” is the term that is used to describe the boundary that separated the Warsaw Pact countries from the NATO countries from 1945 until the end of the Cold War in 1991. In the exhibit, *Along the Iron Curtain*, the life of the border patrol is shown through artifacts, photographs, uniforms, and stories that are on display from the collection of former American GI Joe Michaud. Michaud was a border guard with the 14<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

After the breakup of the Soviet empire, Michaud discovered that many East German border guards were selling their uniforms and other materials documenting communist life on eBay. The items that Michaud collected give a compelling account of the history of the border from the early crude barbed wire fences in the countryside to the later Berlin Wall. On display from this collection will be East German border Patrol uniforms, a US Army uniform, and medals.

Herbert Hoover maintained a special interest in Germany, whose people he fed after both world wars. In 1954 at the age of 80, Hoover flew to West Germany in President Eisenhower's plane, in what Hoover termed as a “sort of good-will journey.” In 1992 a large piece of the Berlin Wall was donated to the Herbert Hoover Museum and is on display in the Hoover galleries.

The Hoover Museum is located in West Branch, Iowa, ¼ mile off Interstate 80 at Exit 254. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. For more information call – 319-643-5301 or visit the website – [www.hoover.archives.gov](http://www.hoover.archives.gov).

## Photos

Berlin Wall on display at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum

11/22/54 Herbert Hoover greeted by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer on his arrival in Bonn.