

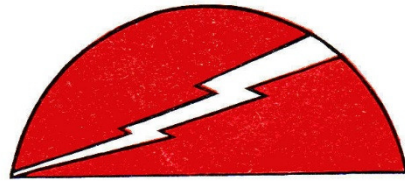


BERLIN

IN

RUINS





AN ILLUSTRATED INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY OF



US HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN DISTRICT

Telefunken Building



Formerly the offices and factories of Telefunken, one of Germany's largest suppliers of radio and electrical equipment, it is now US Headquarters Berlin District and the 78th Infantry Division Headquarters.

Introduction

Berlin's history dates back many centuries as the seat of a feudal principality. For 500 years it was the capital city of the House of Hohenzollern. In the 17th century Frederick William welded the Brandenburg area into a single state. As a result of the victory over Austria in 1740 Frederick the Great made Prussia a major power. Kaiser Wilhelm I under Bismarck's guidance became the first emperor of Germany in 1871 and the last reigning monarch was Kaiser Wilhelm II who in 1918 was forced to relinquish the throne.

In 1640 when Frederick William assumed control of the government, Berlin had a population of approximately 6,000. By the end of the 18th century its population was over 200,000. Manufacturing had been encouraged and a network of canals connected Berlin with other towns of the vicinity. Confusion resulting from the Napoleonic wars brought about a collapse of its industries and Berlin started rebuilding as an industrial center in the first half of the last century. By 1903 Berlin's population was 2,000,000. In 1939 its population was over 4,000,000.

Only in the past 60 years has it assumed the importance of such comparable world capitals as Paris, London, Moscow and Washington, and become the center of practically all German government and administration. Berlin recently rose to prominence as a cultural center for until the 19th century the energies of Prussia were to a great extent spent on war and hard work rather than culture. As for cultural traditions, in the way of buildings, monuments and historical associations, Berlin ranks below many other German cities of the west and south. But as the city developed in size and political importance it became increasingly a center of music and drama, the home of opera houses, theaters and orchestras as well as many scientific institutions.

Berlin was Germany's leading industrial city, specializing in the fields of electrical engineering, metal, machine tools and the textile industries and was the largest railroad center in Germany, 14 main lines extending to all parts of Germany.

Around the center of the old town, new industrial suburbs sprang up on one side and new residential quarters on the other. Most of the government and public buildings are concentrated in the area to be covered in the tour, but some recently constructed buildings have had to be located in the suburbs. The north and east of Berlin, now the Russian occupied zone, are mainly populated by industrial workers and contained many features typical of slum conditions and overcrowding, such as large numbers of ugly, overcrowded, unsanitary and barracks-like tenements. The more luxurious residential districts where lived Berlin's middle class and aristocracy are in the British and American zones. In the north, east and south of Berlin are the industrial suburbs.

Between the two world wars, Berlin, because of its location in relationship to the rest of Europe, became a meeting place of eastern and western influence. Its position as an international clearing house of new political, intellectual and artistic ideas steadily grew under the Weimar Republic. Now once again it has become the meeting place of the West and east, this time through the medium of Allied Military Government.

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Sportpalast



The Madison Square Garden of Berlin, the Sportpalast was the scene of numerous indoor sports attractions and National Socialist Party political rallies. Here too Max Schmeling won Germany's heavyweight boxing championship. One of the last events to be held in the building before its destruction by fire in October 1943 was a rally at which the main speaker was Dr. Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda.

Potsdamer Platz



In pre-war times, this was one of Berlin's busiest traffic intersections, five main streets converging here. The building in center rear was the Potsdamer Railroad Station.

Wertheim Department Store



When this building was constructed near the beginning of the century, its design was considered the most modern and revolutionary in Europe. It was Germany's largest department store. In 1944 the interior was completely destroyed by air attacks.

SS and Gestapo Headquarters



Heinrich Himmler, who, as head of the Gestapo and SS troops, was the second most powerful man in National Socialist Germany, made his headquarters in this building. Deep beneath the structure was an elaborate air raid shelter. Although Himmler fled Berlin as Russian troops fought their way through the city, the building itself was defended by his SS troop followers against Red Army forces.

Luftfahrtministerium



This was one of Germany's more modern governmental structures, having been built after 1933 to house the staff of the rapidly expanding air force under the leadership of Hermann Goering. It fronts on Wilhelmstrasse, along which are several other government buildings including the foreign office, the old and new chancellories and the Kaiserhof. On this street also was the British Embassy.

Kaiserhof



Before becoming chancellor in 1933, Adolf Hitler stayed at this hotel whenever he was in Berlin. During the years the National Socialists were fighting for power, his suite was their Berlin Headquarters.

Propagandaministerium

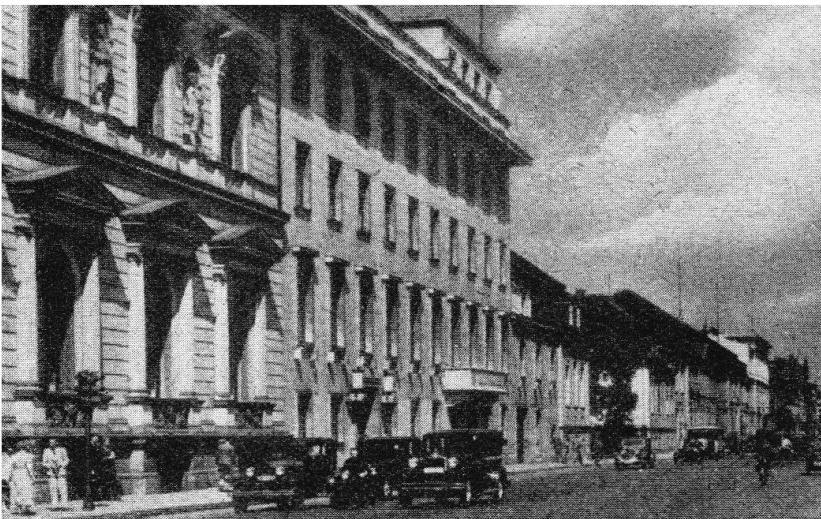


Before 1933 this was the United States Embassy. When the embassy was moved to a new location near Brandenburger Gate, Joseph Goebbels made it the Headquarters of the Ministry of Propaganda.

Reichschancellory



This was Hitler's official residence and office. From the first floor balcony he made many speeches to his followers, who massed in the street below, and also reviewed Party ceremonies. The interior was richly decorated while two floors below the surface was Germany's most ornate air raid shelter where Hitler and Eva Braun are reported to have spent their last days. Hanging in Hitler's private reception room were great crystal



chandeliers. The floor of the Mosaic Hall consisted of marble inlaid with gold. Partially destroyed by air raids, the building received further damage during the battle for Berlin.

Hindenburg Palast



General Von Hindenburg the Commander in Chief of the armies on Germany's Eastern front from 1914 to 1918 and President of Germany under the Weimar Republic, made his official residence here. The building was destroyed during street fighting.

French And German Churches



These two Protestant churches of almost identical design were built at the beginning of the 18th Century by French Huguenots and Bohemian Hussites respectively, who had fled from their native land to Protestant Berlin to escape religious persecution.

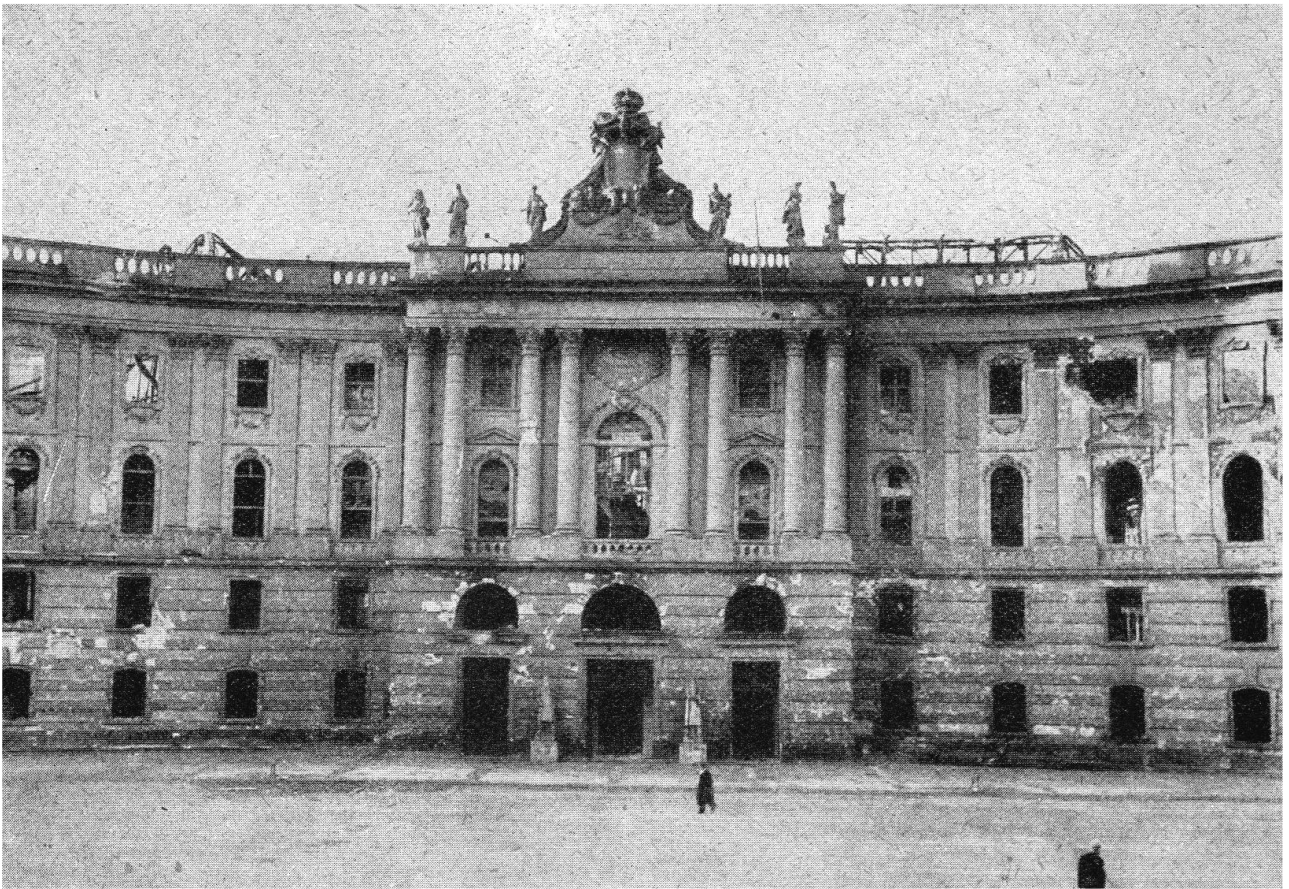


Schauspielhaus



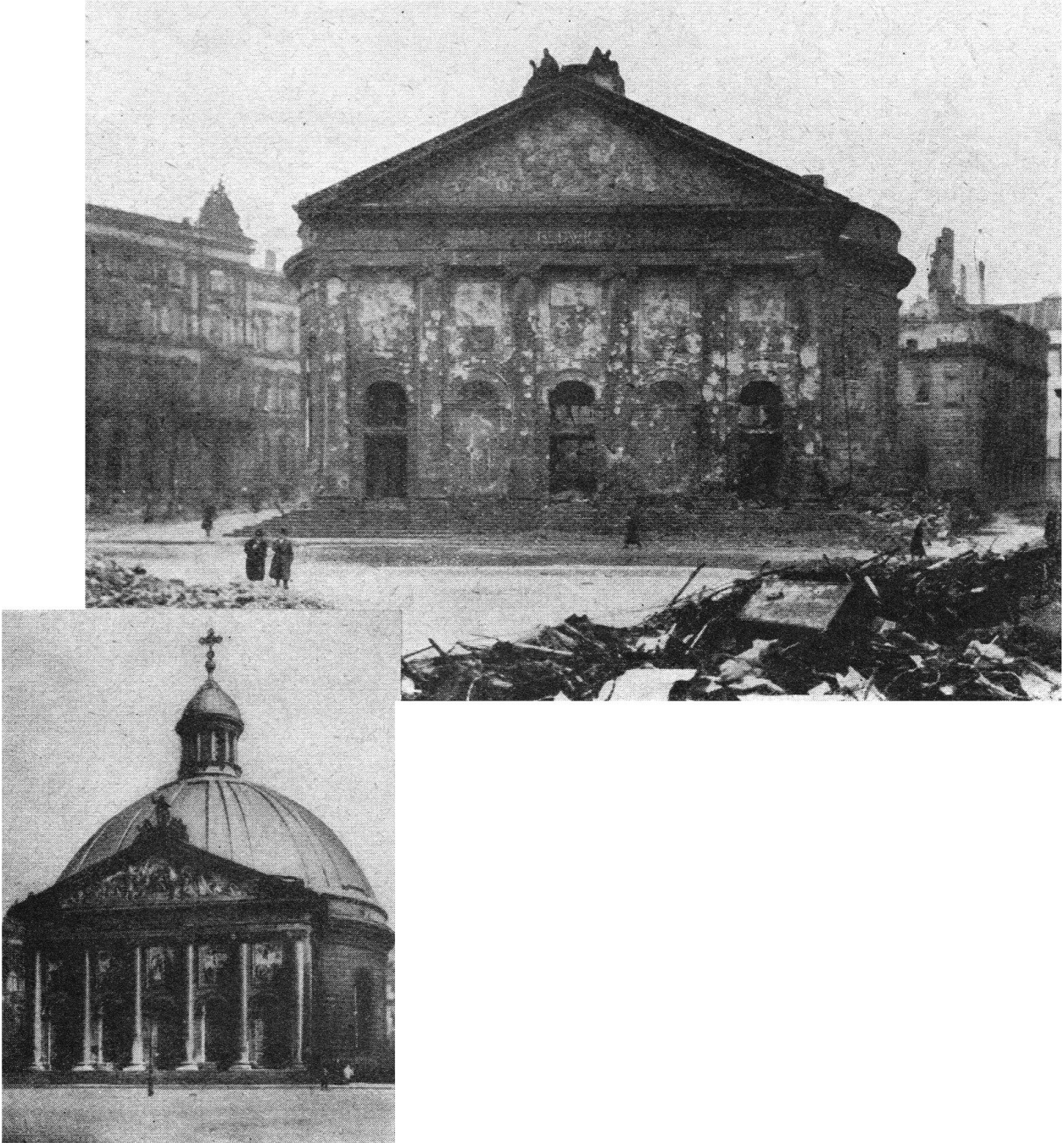
Between the French and German Churches was the Schauspielhaus, a theater built in the early part of the 19th Century for the presentation of German classical plays and Shakespeare. A theater which formerly had stood on the same sight originally specialized in French plays.

Kronprinzenpalais



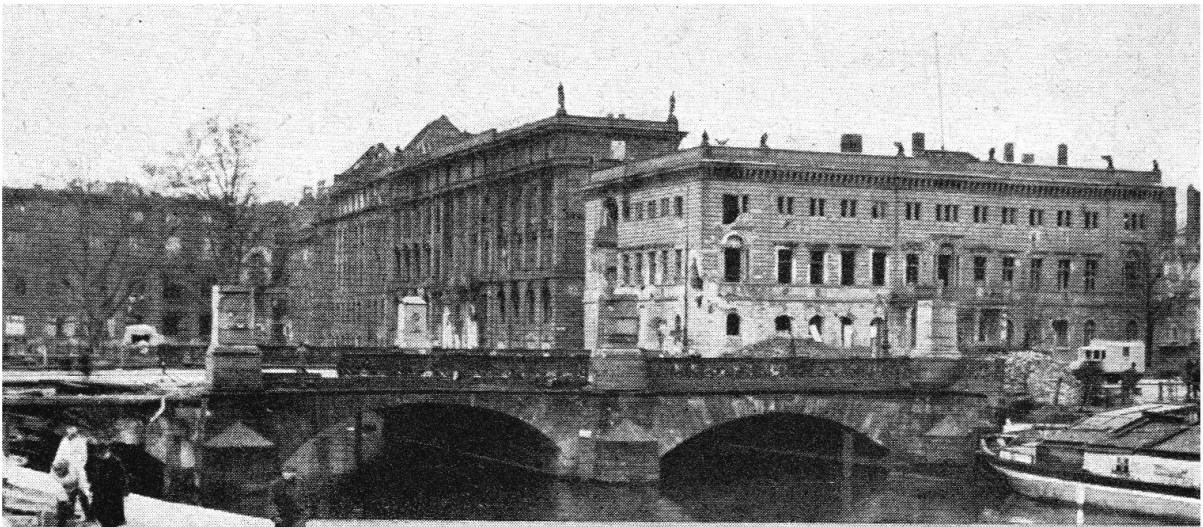
Built in 1663, this was the private palace of the crown princes of the House of Hohenzollern, the Prussian royal house. After 1918 it became the location of the National Gallery, but the interior was destroyed by incendiary bombs in 1944.

St. Hedwig's Cathedral



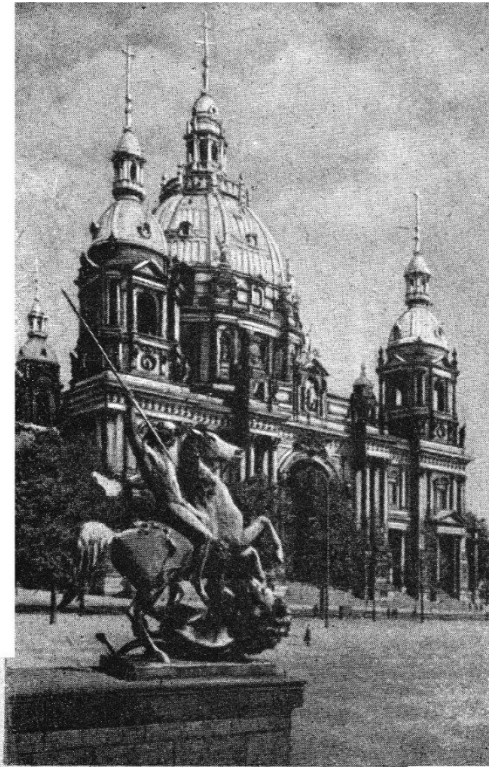
Built during the reign of Frederick the Great in 1747, this church is an imitation of the Pantheon in Rome.

Schlossbrücke



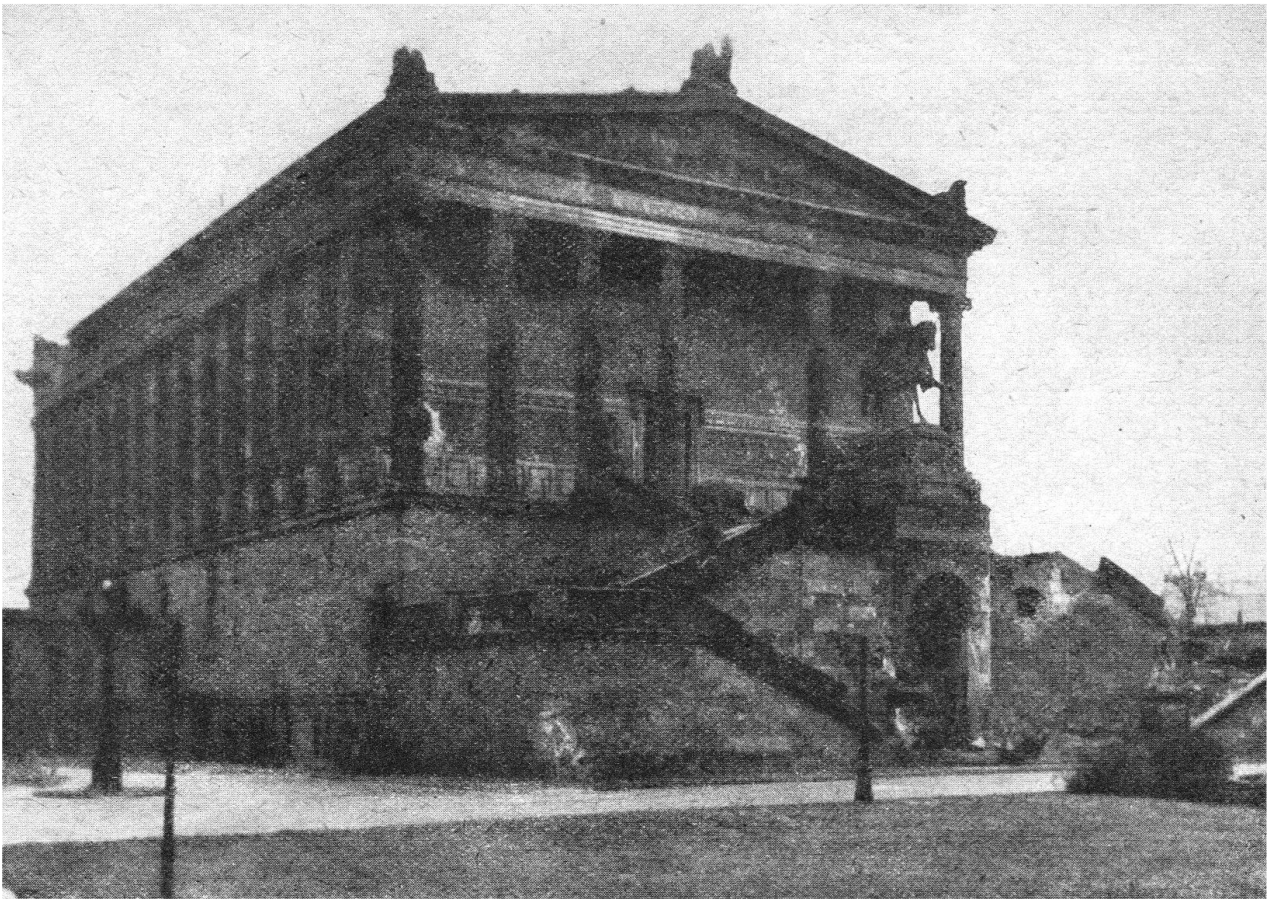
This bridge at the end of Unter den Linden crosses the Spree River to the Museums Island, on which are located the five art museums. On the bridge were eight metal statues depicting the life of the soldier, but during the War they were melted down for scrap iron.

Berliner Dom



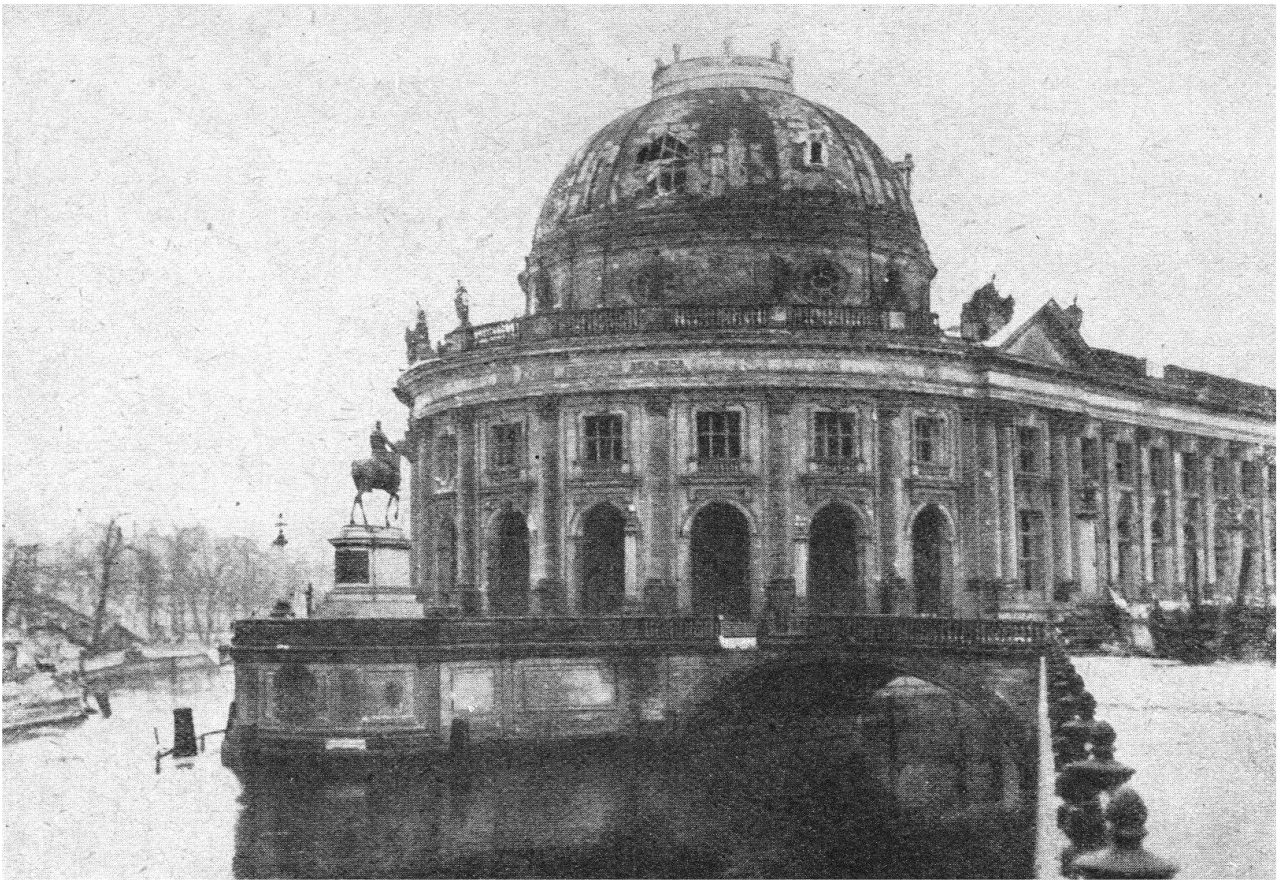
This cathedral was built in Italian Renaissance style during the middle of the 18th Century and rebuilt the following century. Berlin's principal church, it was the house of worship of the royal family, and beneath the street level are tombs with the remains of many of the kings and emperors of the House of Hohenzollern.

Nationalgalerie

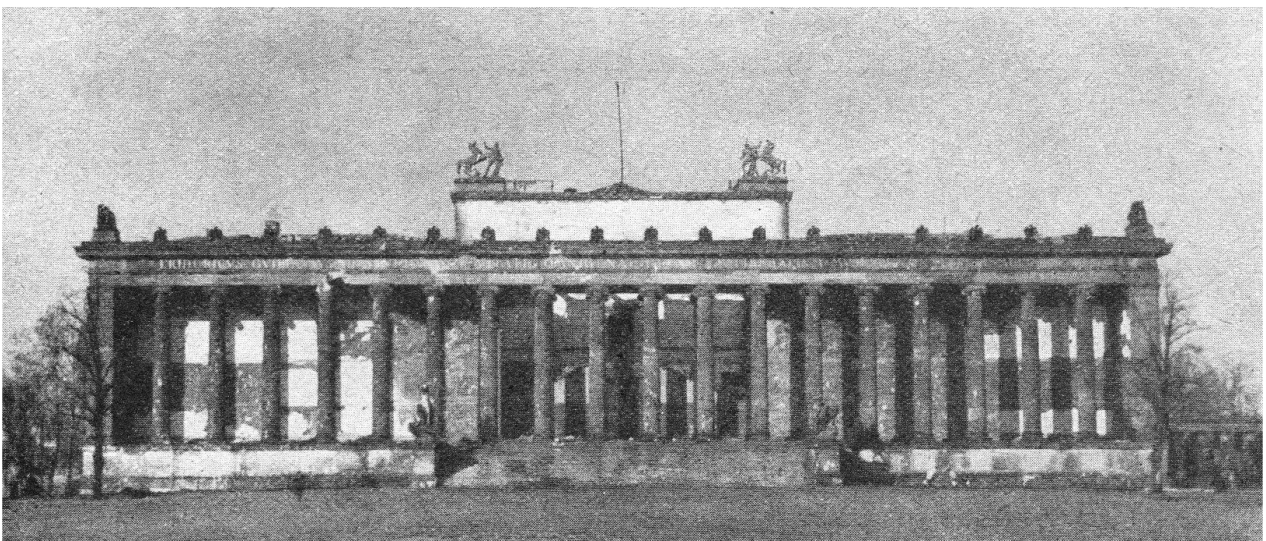


The Nationalgalerie is a copy of a Corinthian Temple. Built in 1876, its collections included works done through the 19th century. Greek and Roman art was exhibited in the Altes Museum while the Neues Museum housed a famous Egyptian collection. The Pergamon Museum, built in two sections, contained exhibits of German and Western Asiatic art. One third the size of the original, the antique part is an exact imitation of the Greek Pergamon Temple. The Kaiser Friedrich Museum, built at the end of the last century, contained Persian and Islamic art.

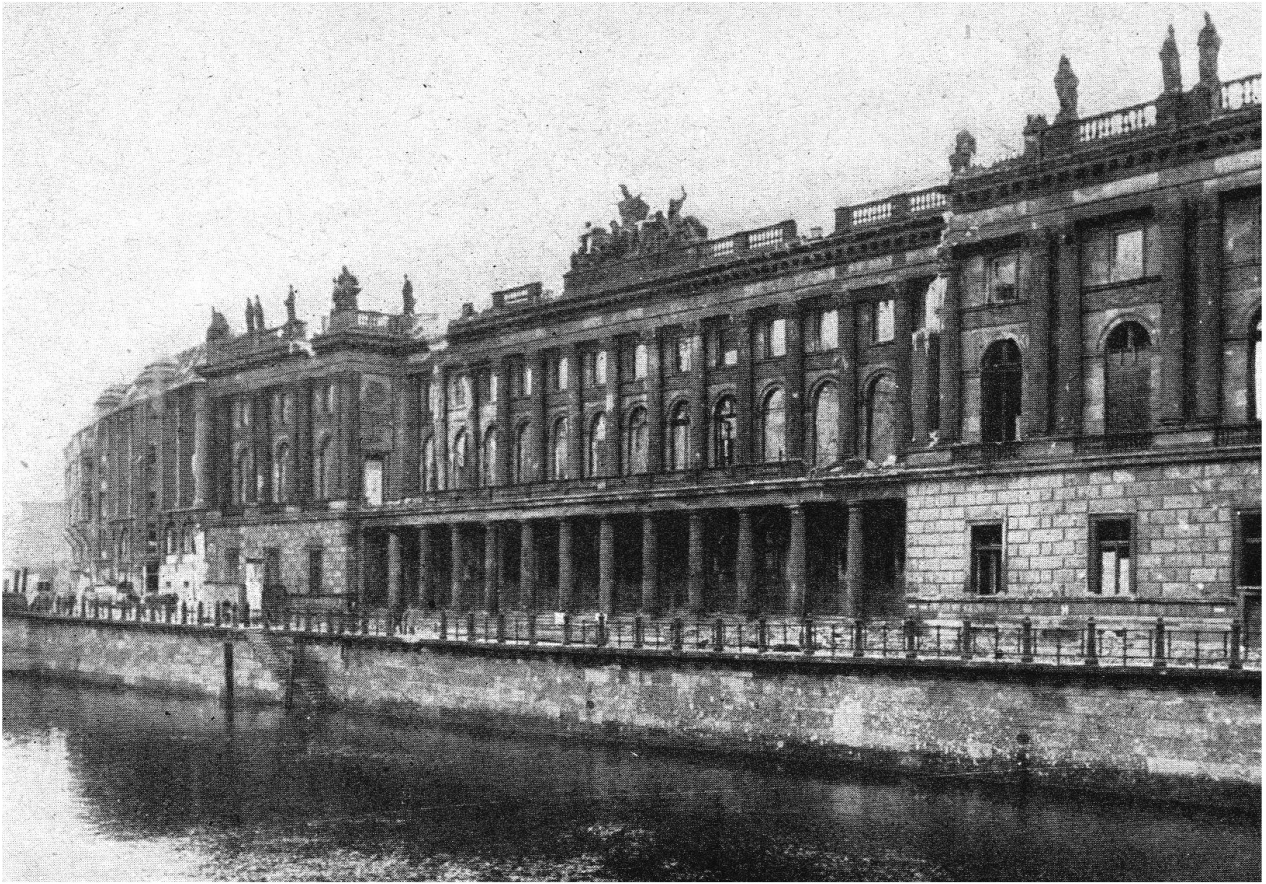
Kaiser Friedrich Museum



Altes Museum



Börse (Stock Exchange)



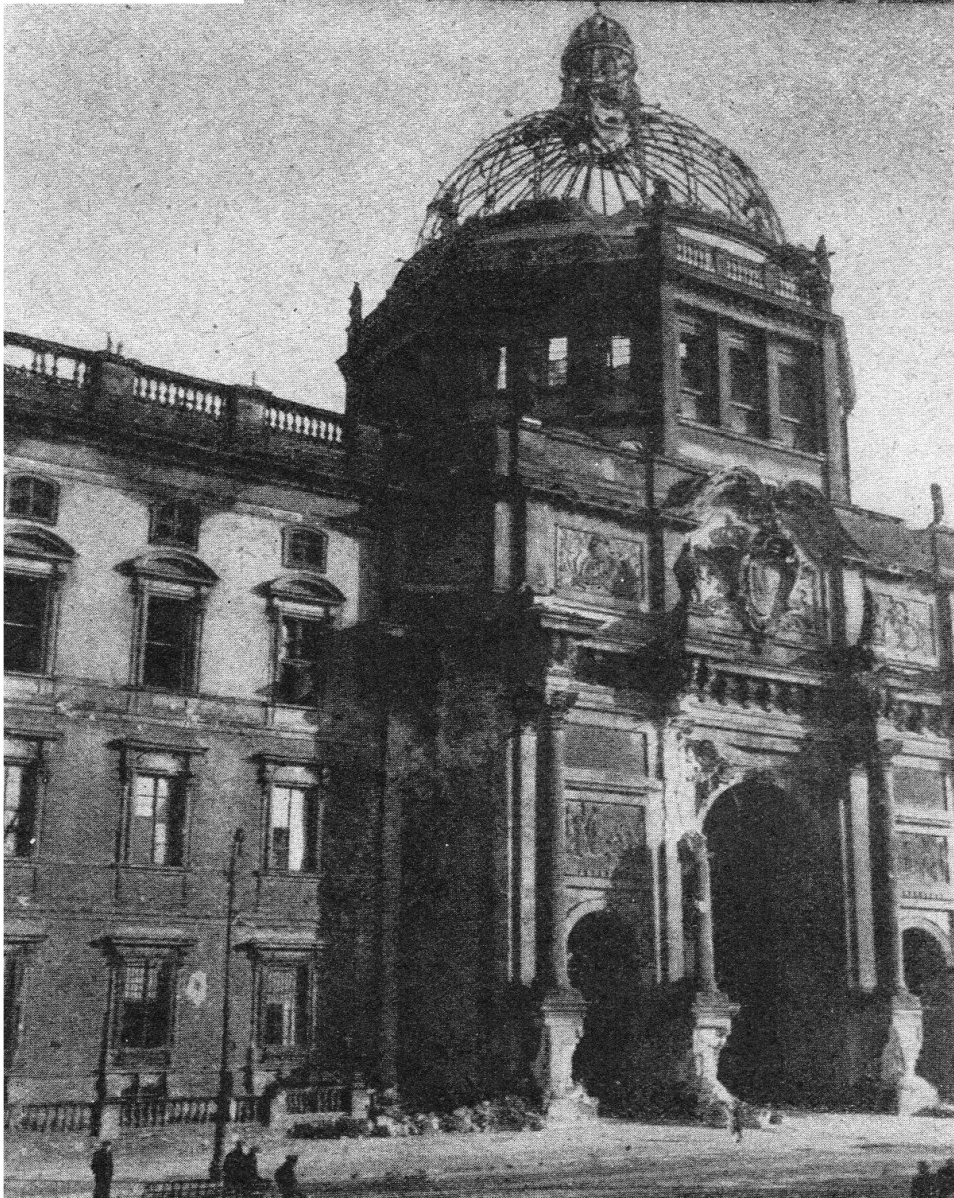
Construction was started in 1859 of Berlin's stock exchange, and the Italian Renaissance style building was completed in 1864. The Spree River, which flows through the center of Berlin, is in front of the structure.

Rathaus



Construction of Berlin's main city hall was completed in 1869. The tower rises 300 feet above the street. The building is still in use.

Schloss



The residence of the Prussian emperors since the death of Frederick the Great, this castle was first built in the 16th Century. In the old section are deep dungeons, into which the prisoners of the medieval kings were lowered by ropes. No stairs were built into the cells. According to legend even today the dungeon tower is haunted by the ghosts of the victims of 16th Century justice.

Monument Kaiser Wilhelm I



This monument is located in front of the "Schloss" and is called the National Monument. The central figure is Kaiser Wilhelm I. Most of the damage was inflicted to this Masterpiece by bombs.

Zeughaus



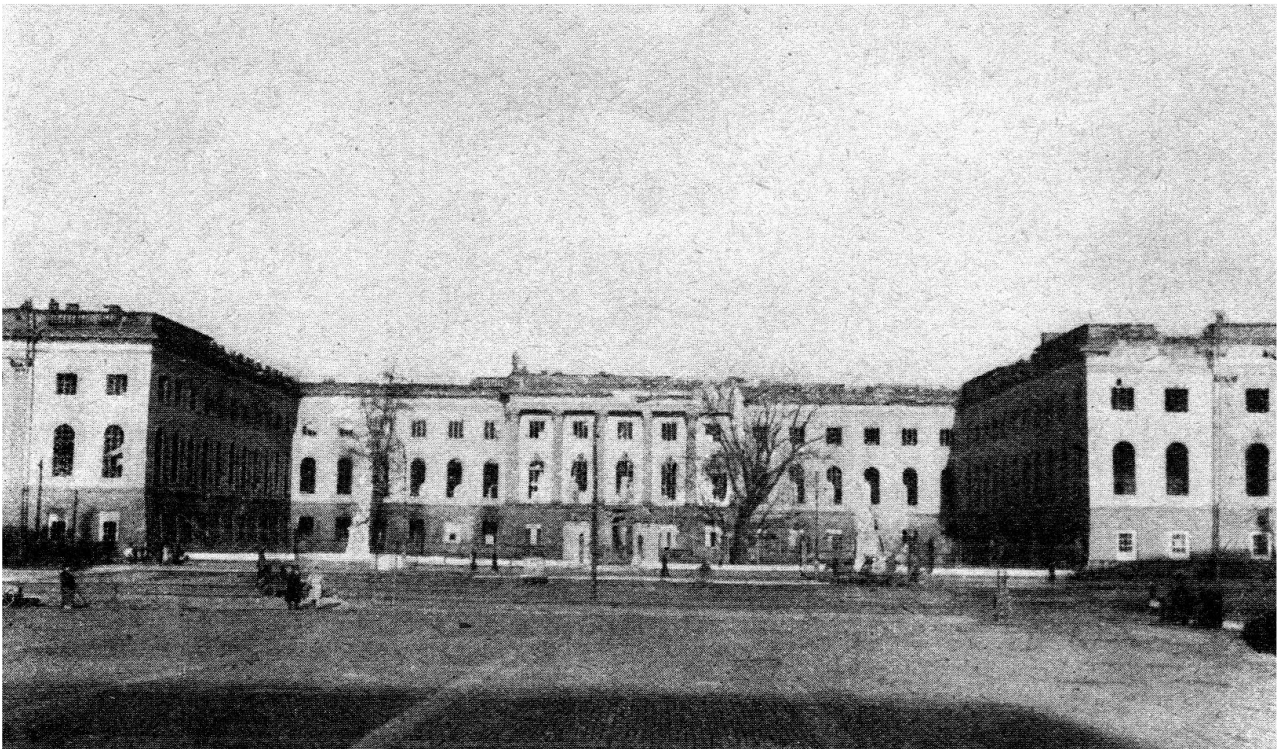
One of Berlin's oldest monumental buildings, the arsenal was built in 1706 in French Baroque style. Later it was used as a museum for arms and weapons.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



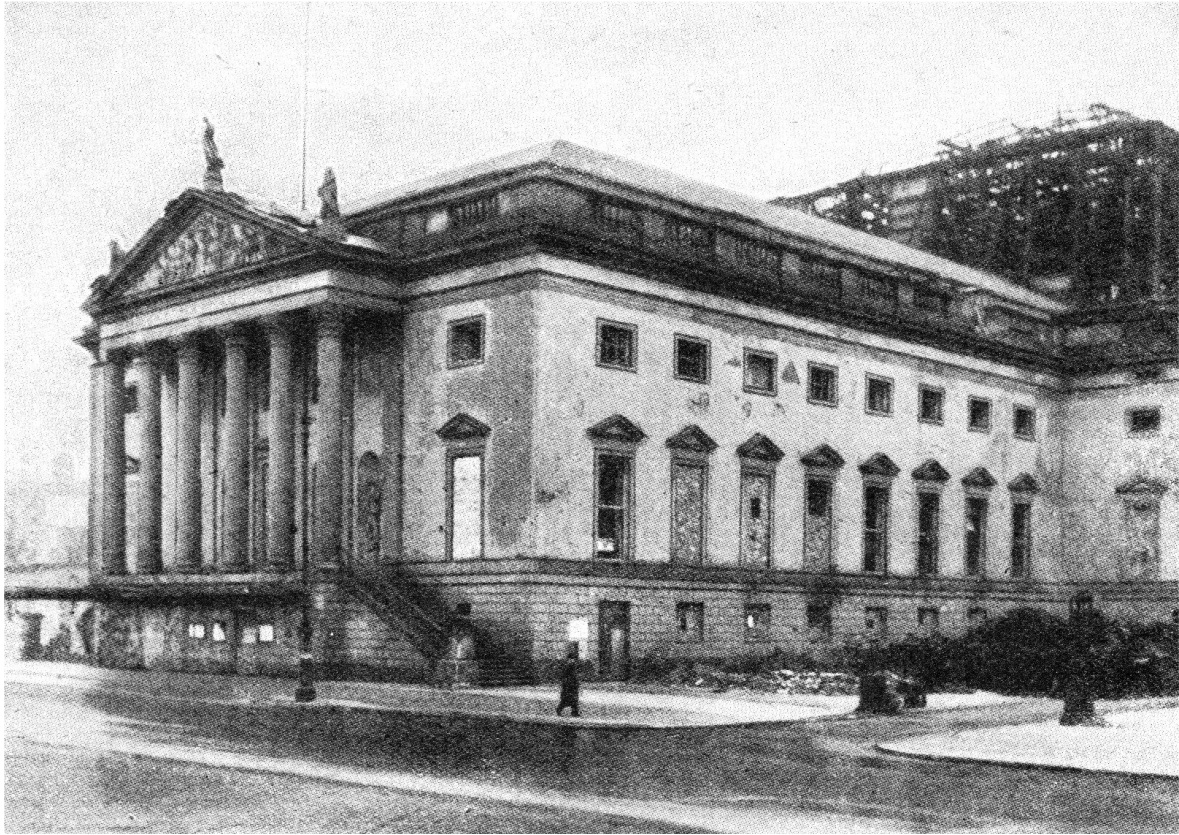
After 1918, this building, which had been built a century before to be used as a guard house for the royal elite guard, became the tomb of Germany's unknown soldier. The tomb itself consists of a large black marble block.

University of Berlin



The University of Berlin was opened in 1810, its first president being the nationalist philosopher, Johann Gottlieb Fichte. Among other early faculty members were the Humboldt brothers, famous physicists and philosophers, and the philosophers Hegel and Schleiermacher. Prior to 1933 it had a student body of 15,000 with about 800 faculty members. It is soon to be reopened, but students will be required to work a certain number of hours rebuilding the damaged sections.

Opera



This building with its class Greek facade designed by Frederick the Great was built in 1741 for the performance of Italian opera. Destroyed by fire in 1843, it was rebuilt, but 99 years later it was burned down again, the latter time by incendiary bombs. It was once again rebuilt, but was severely damaged in subsequent street fighting, it is not being used at present.

Monument of Frederick The Great



The rectangular brick structure, built during the war to protect the monument from air raids, encloses a statue of Frederick the Great mounted on a horse. Surrounding the central figure are statues of some of the famous 18th Century personalities of the court of Frederick.

Unter den Linden



This mile long avenue from the Tiergarten to Museums Island was designed in the middle of the 17th Century as a copy of similar wide thoroughfares in Paris, to be used for triumphal parades and ceremonies. In the center of the street were planted rows of linden trees, but these were removed after 1933.

Brandenburger Tor



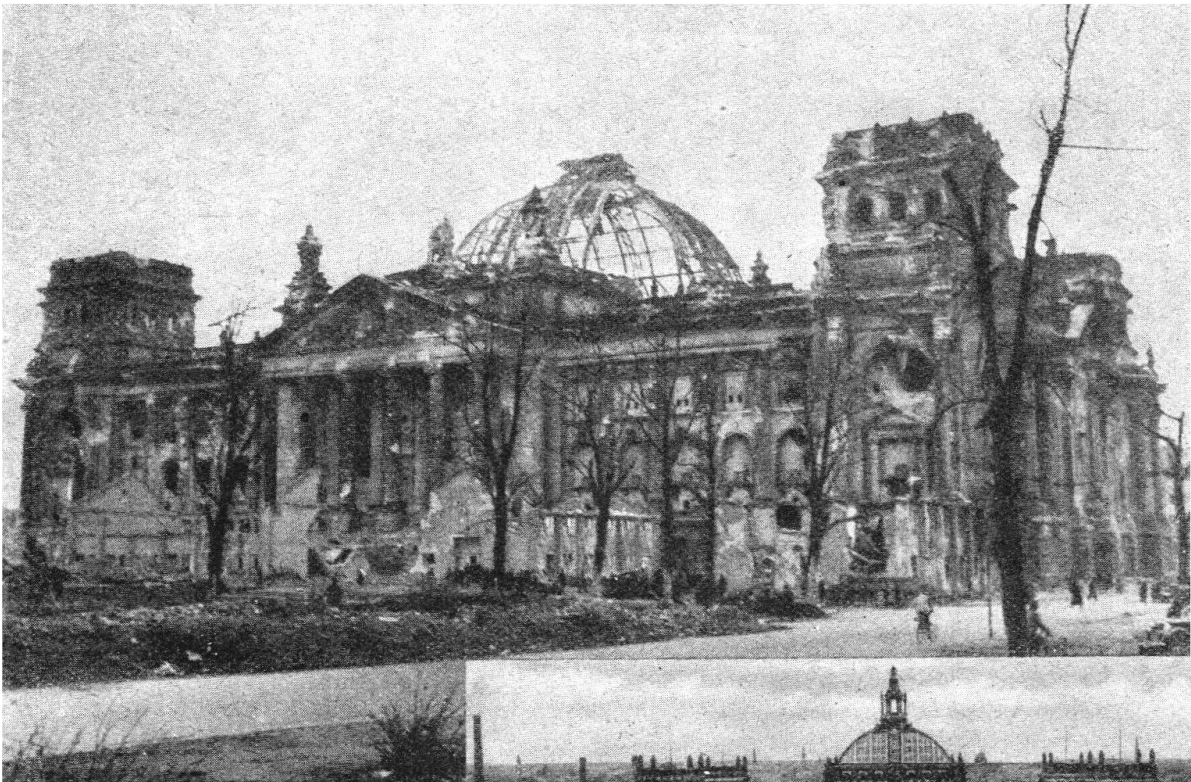
The Brandenburger Gate, so named because the main route to Brandenburg Province is the road leading from the gate through the Tiergarten, was built in 1793 and is a copy of the Propylaea in Athens. The statuette, the Goddess of Victory, over the gate was taken to Paris by Napoleon 1807, but after his defeat, it was brought back to Berlin by the victorious Prussian armies. The gate is 85 feet high and 205 feet wide. The ruined structure to the left of the gate was the United States Embassy after 1933. At the extreme left was the Hotel Adlon, formerly Berlin's most luxurious hotel and the home of visiting diplomats and foreign correspondents.

Brandenburger Tor

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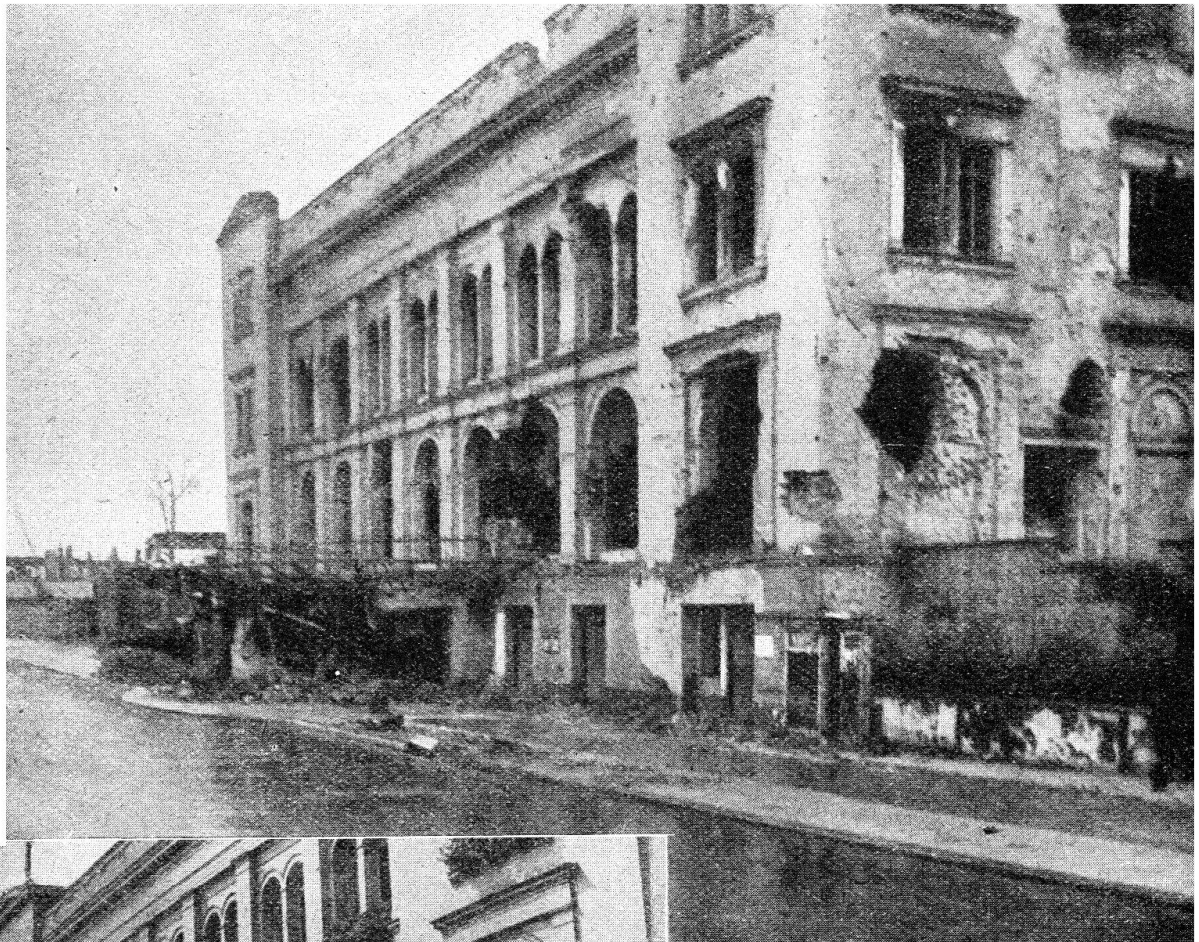


Reichstag



During the days of the monarchy and Weimar Republic, the Reichstag was the meeting place of the German parliament. On the night of February 28, 1933 most of the building was destroyed by fire. The National Socialists accused the Communists of having started the fire as a signal of a nationwide revolution and in the following few days Communist and Social Democratic leaders were arrested. With his opposition leadership imprisoned and confused, Hitler and his followers won a majority of votes cast in the subsequent election. Later it was revealed the fire was started by the National Socialists as a pretext to suppress all opposition. The building was never rebuilt.

Kroll Oper



Behind the Reichstag is the Kroll Oper, a former opera house, which after the Reichstag fire was used to house Hitler's parliament.

Russian War Memorial



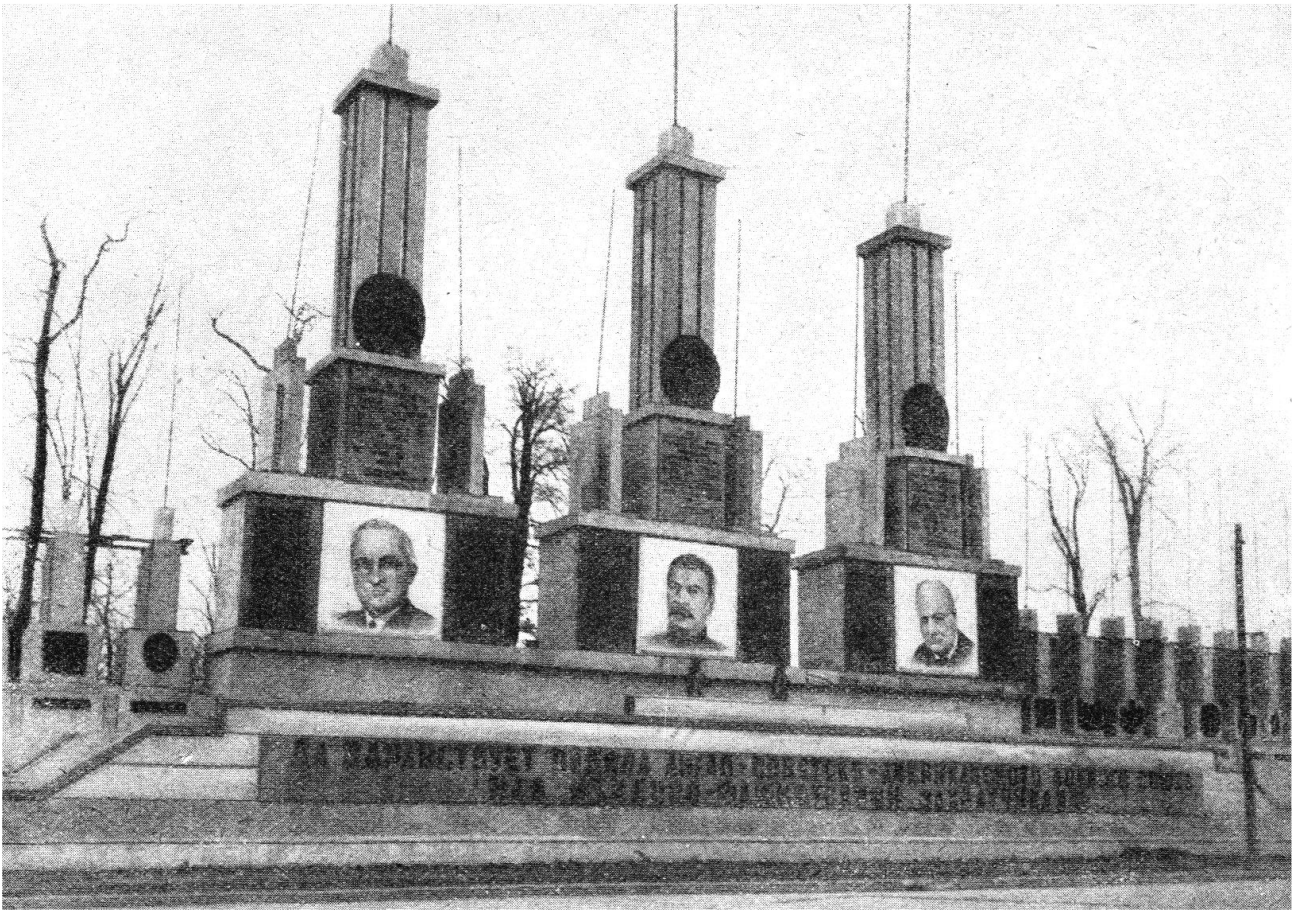
The semi-circular Russian memorial with the Red Army soldier on top pointing at defeated Berlin was erected by the Russians in one week and was unveiled at ceremonies commemorating the Russian October Revolution.

Yalta Conference Memorial



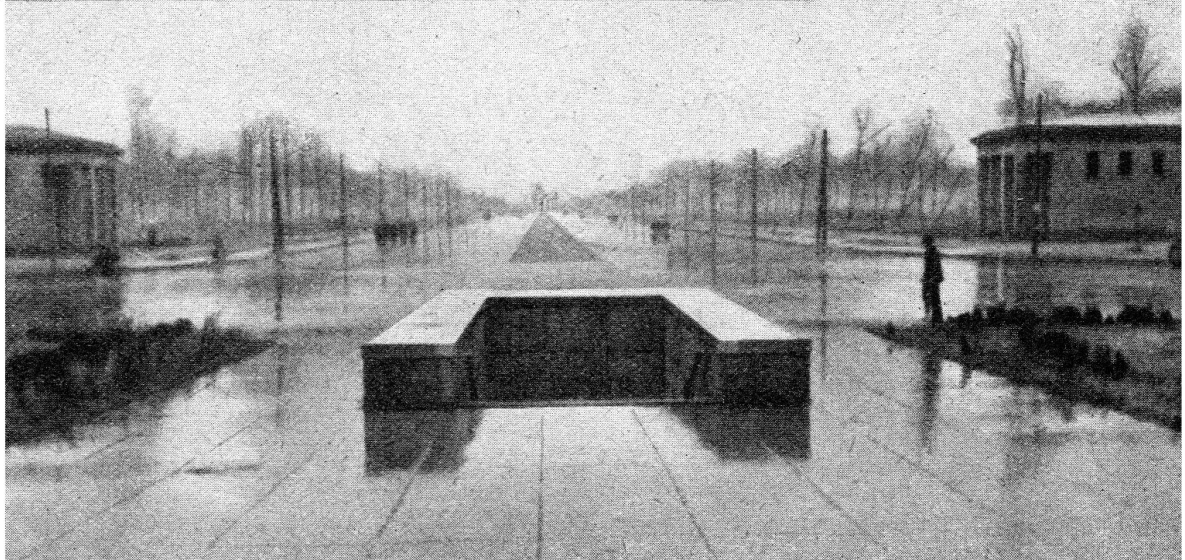
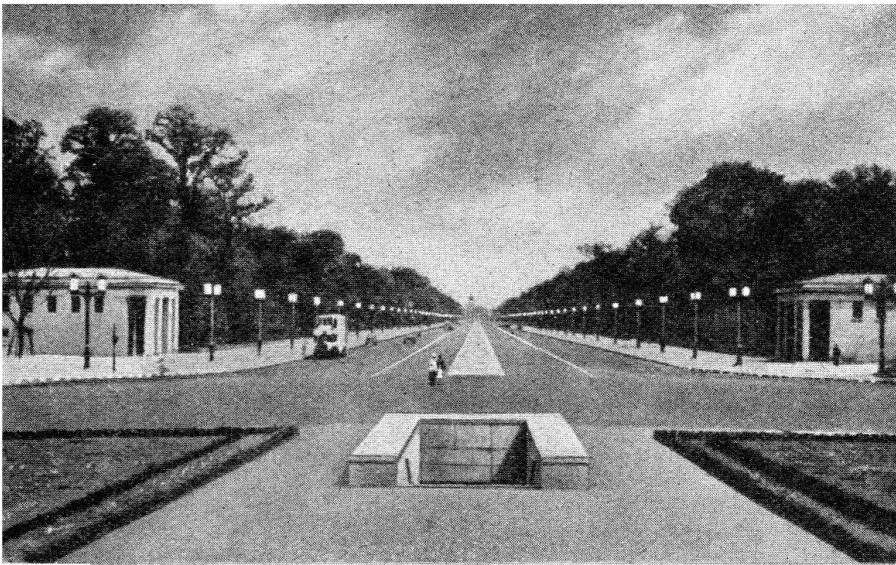
The group picture of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin was mounted by the Russians as a reminder of the Yalta conference of the "Big Three".

Potsdam Conference Memorial



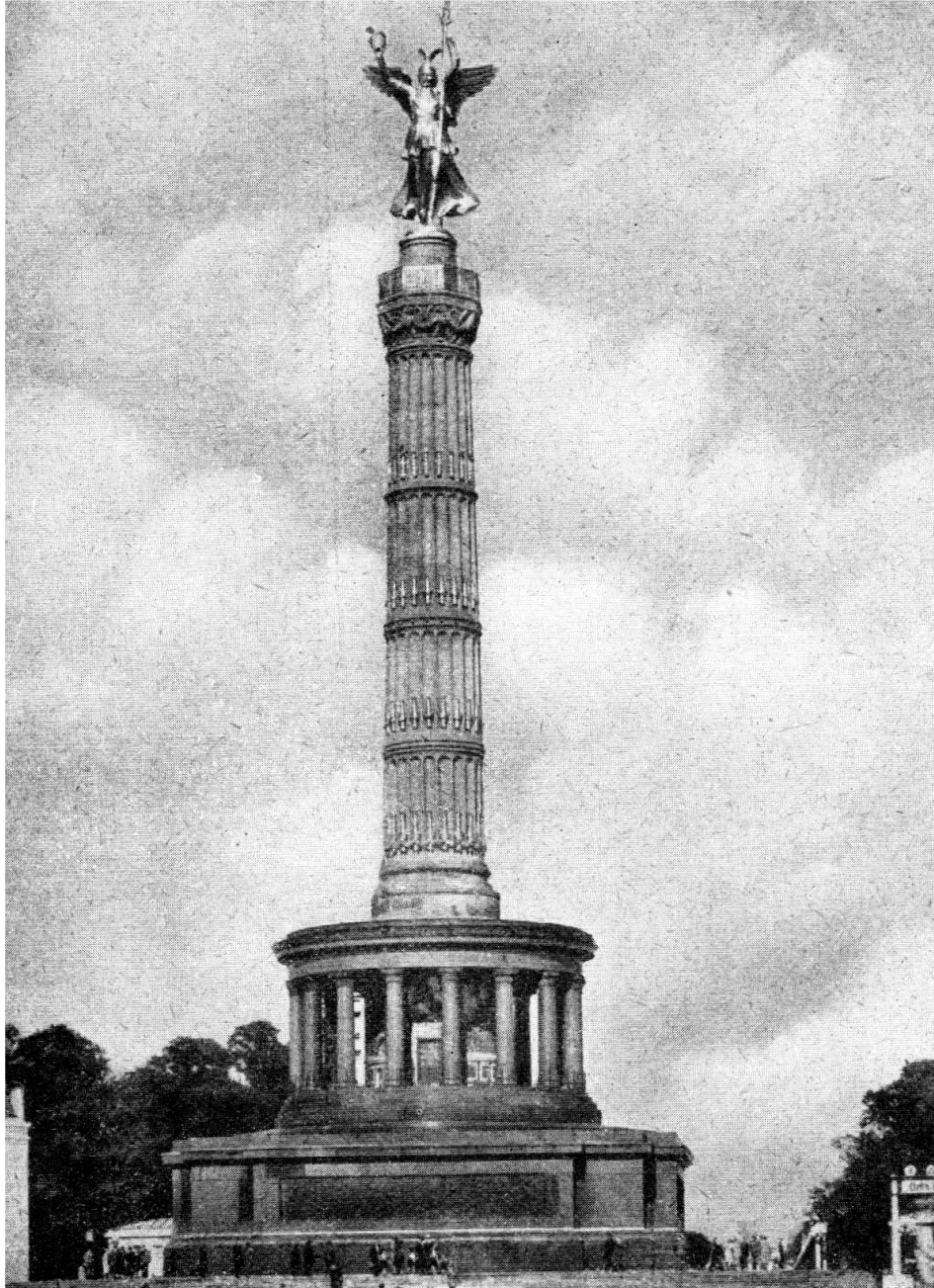
"Hail the victory of the Anglo-Soviet-American military alliance over the German Fascist invaders," says the caption under the large photographs of Truman, Stalin and Churchill, which commemorates the Potsdam Conference.

Tiergarten



Berlin's largest park was a hunting reservation for royalty, during the 16th and 17th centuries. At the time of Frederick the Great sections of it were modelled after the gardens of Versailles. Most of its thousands of trees were removed by Berliners during the winter of 1945/46 to use as fuel.

Siegssäule



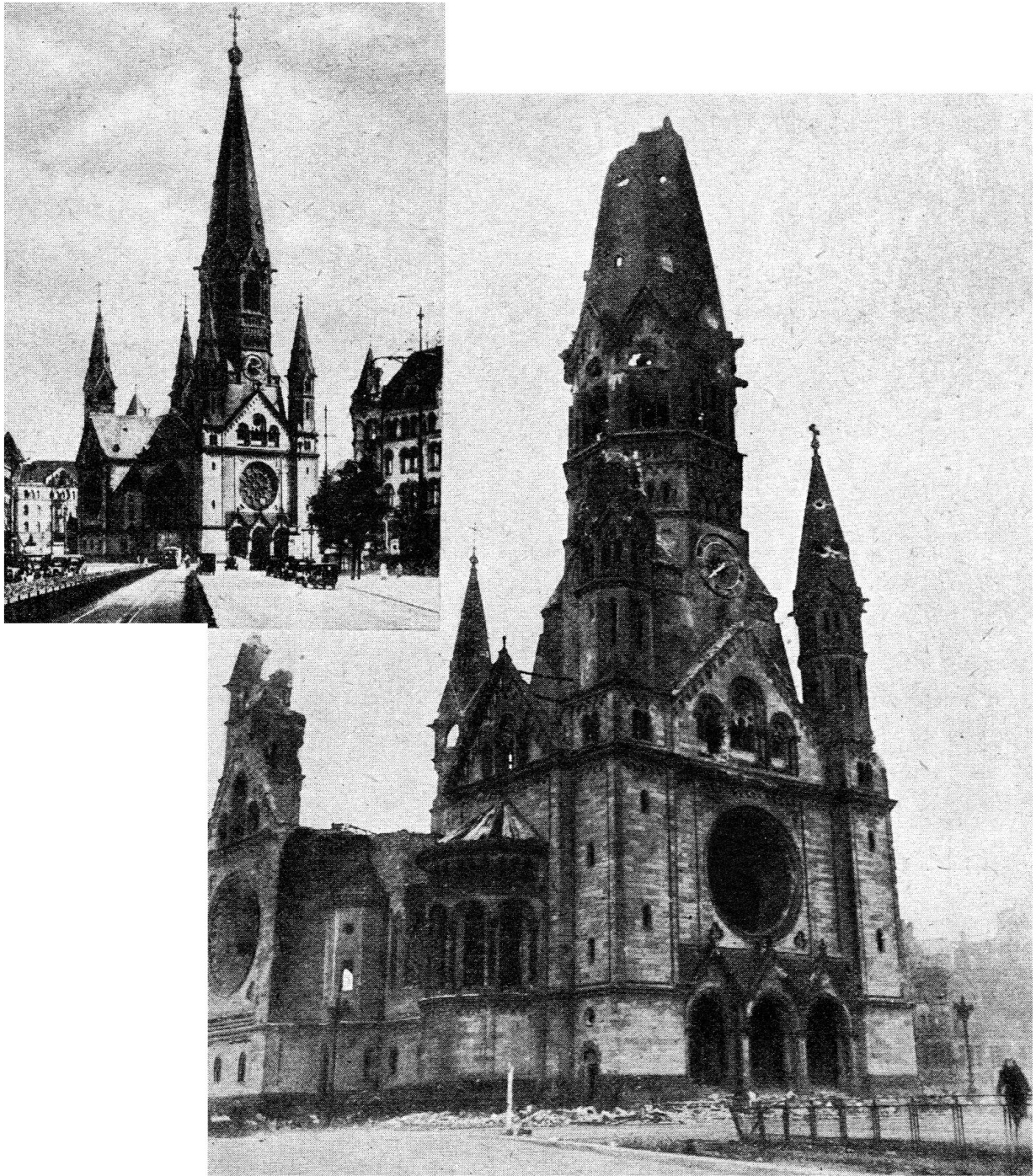
The Column, finished in 1873, celebrated the victories of the Prussian armies in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. Formerly it stood between the Reichstag and the Kroll Oper, but in 1935 was moved to its present location.

Technische Hochschule



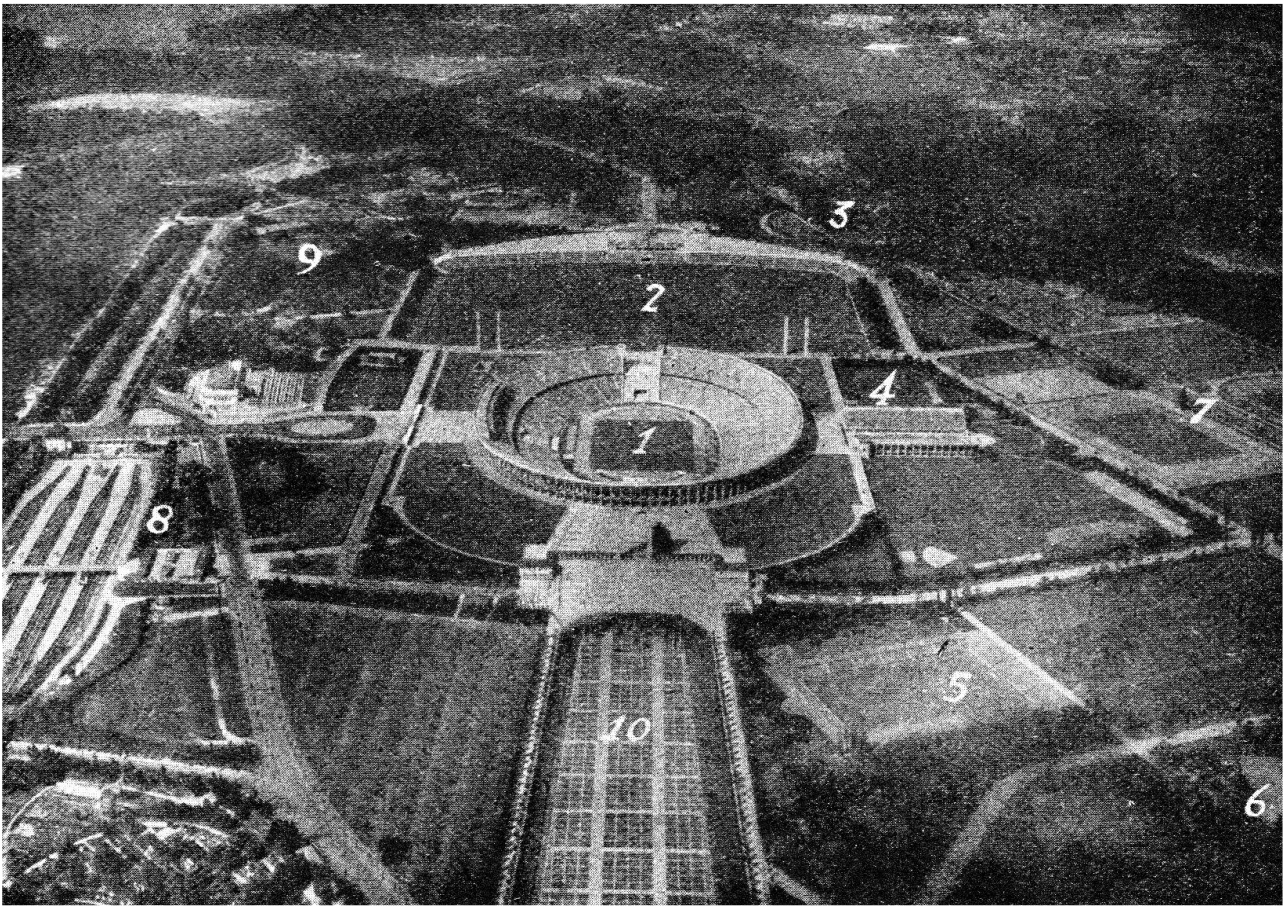
The College of Engineering was built in 1879. It contained technical museums for architecture, ship construction and geology. During the latter part of the war it was used as a hospital.

Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche



Construction of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, which was built in Late Roman style, was completed in 1895. It received most of its destruction when SS troops made a last stand here in April. The church is at the end of Kurfürstendamm, formerly one of Berlin's most elegant and exclusive business and entertainment streets, which although heavily damaged is still a shopping center.

Olympic Stadium

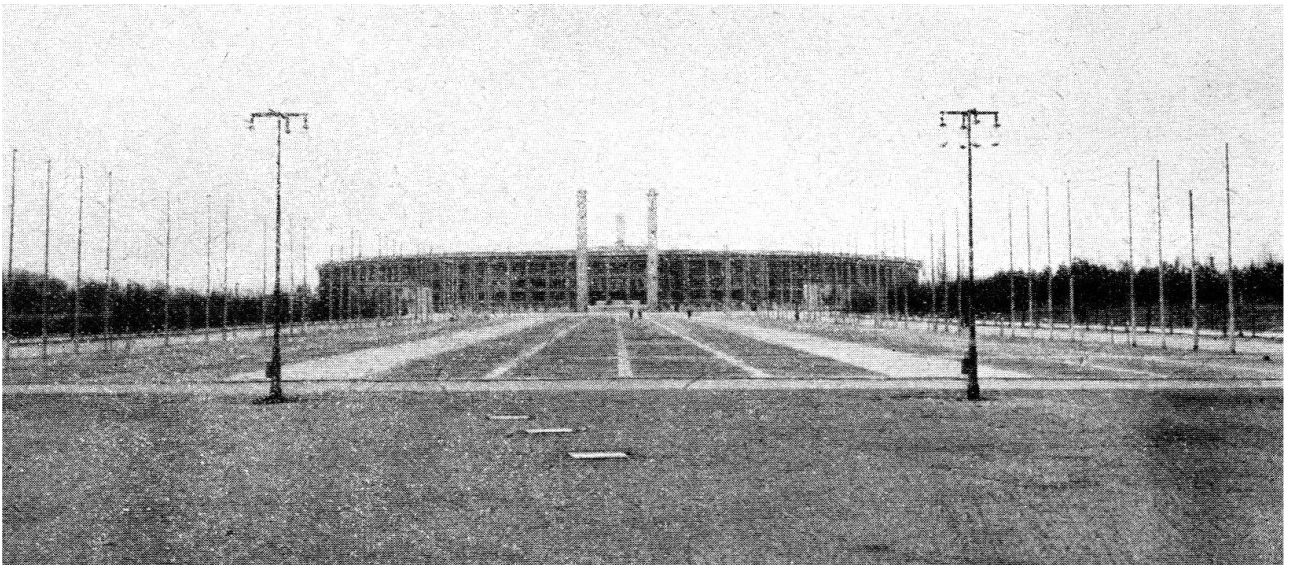
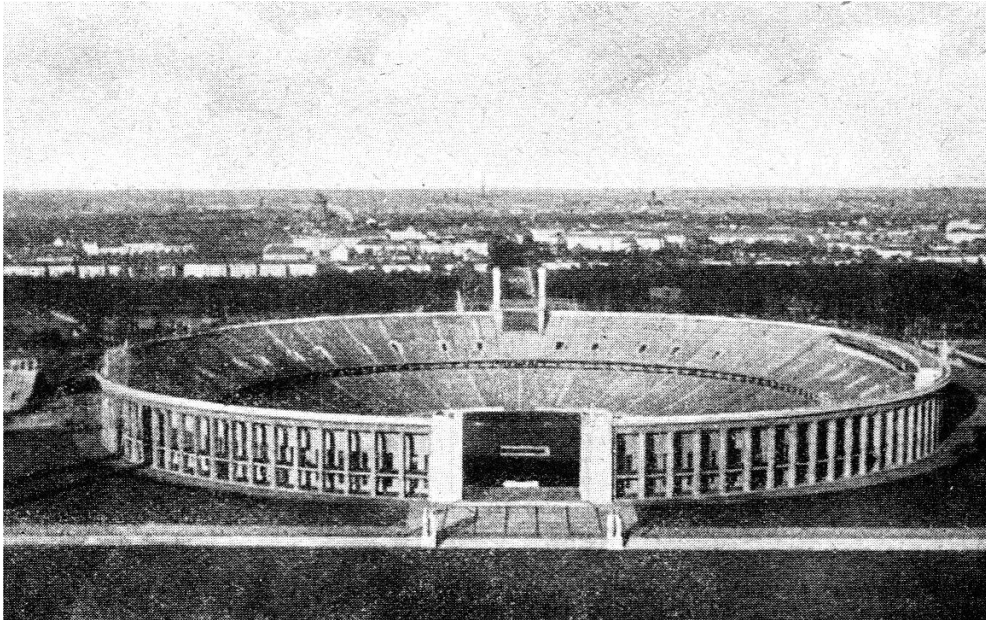


Legend

1. Stadium
2. Polo Field
3. Theater
4. Swimming Pool
5. Soccer Field
6. Tennis Courts
7. Exercise Field
8. Station
9. Race Track
10. Main Entrance

Olympic Stadium

(Continued)



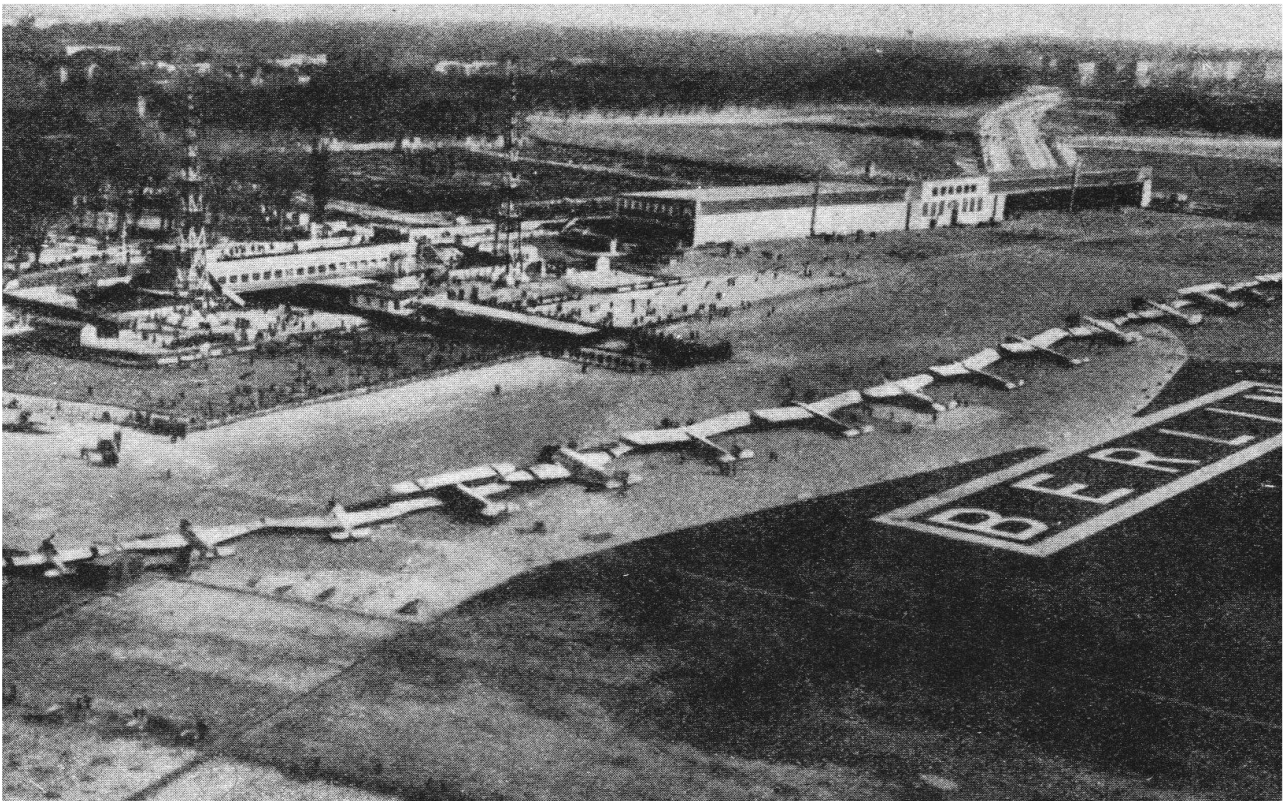
The stadium and surrounding structures were built for the 1936 Olympic games. The stadium, with a seating capacity of approximately 100,000, and the sports fields are now used by Allied occupation troops.

Haus des Rundfunks

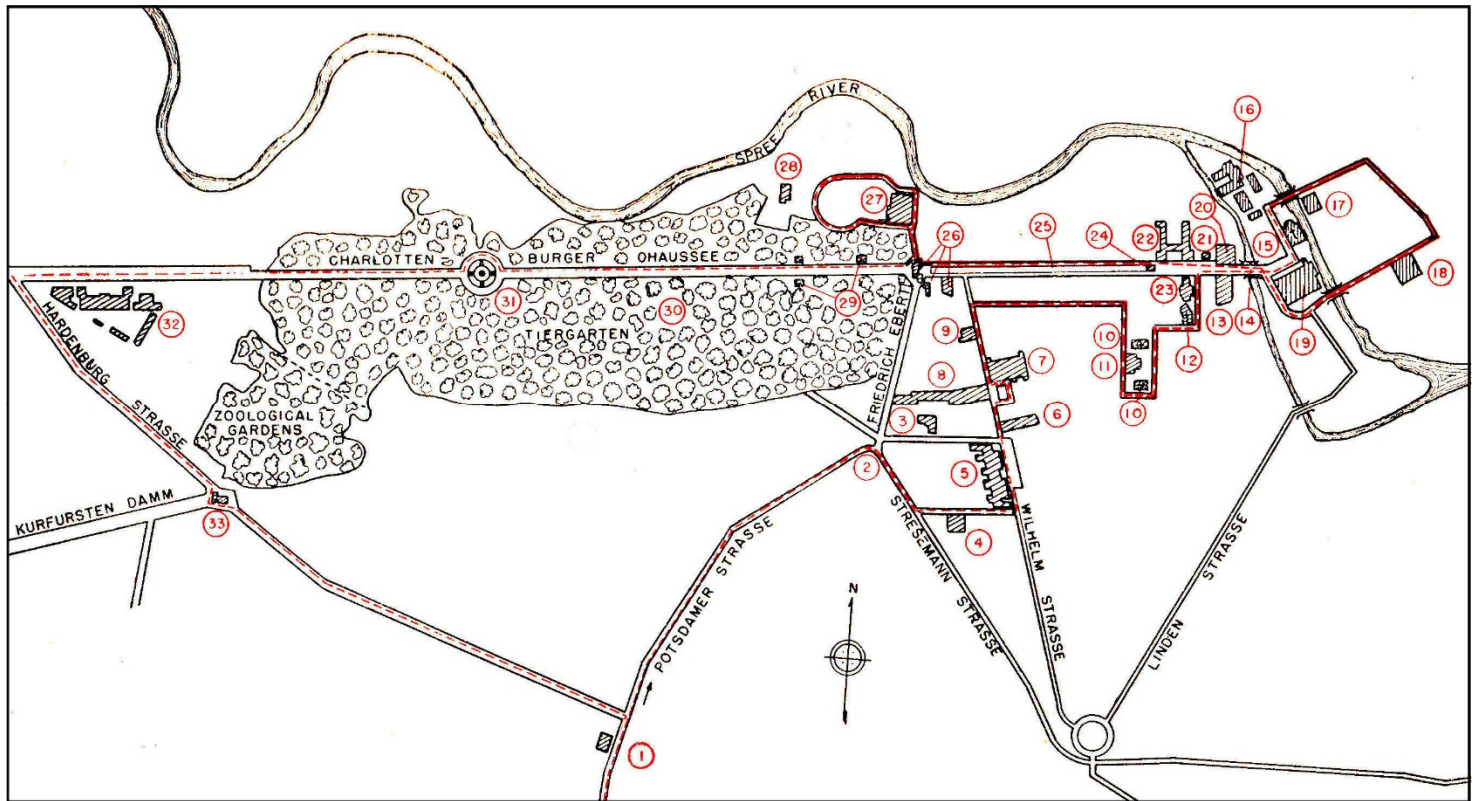


Europe's most modern broadcasting station was built in 1930 in the shape of a horseshoe. In the 400 feet high transmitting towers was a restaurant at the 50 yard level. The large building surrounding the tower was used for exhibition halls at the yearly Berlin fairs.

Tempelhofer Field



Before the war this was Europe's greatest and most modern airport. Although frequently bombed, it has once again been put into operation and is now used by the Army Transport Command. In numerous bombproof underground rooms planes were repaired and protected.



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Sportpalast | 19 Schloss (Palace) |
| 2 Potsdamer Platz | 20 Zeughaus (Arsenal) |
| 3 Wertheim Dep't Store | 21 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier |
| 4 SS and Gestapo Headquarters | 22 University |
| 5 Luftfahrtministerium | 23 Opera |
| 6 Kaiserhof | 24 Monument of Fredrick the Great |
| 7 Propagandaministerium | 25 Unter den Linden |
| 8 Reichschancellory | 26 Hotel Adlon |
| 9 Hindenburgpalais | US Embassy Brandenburg Gate |
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| 12 St. Hedwig's Cathedral | 29 Russian Monuments |
| 13 Kronprinzenpalais | 30 Tiergarten |
| 14 Schlossbrücke | 31 Victory Column |
| 15 Dom | 32 Technische Hochschule
(College of Engineering) |
| 16 Museums | 33 Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church |
| 17 Borse (Exchange) | |
| 18 Rathaus (Cityhall) | |

The material in this book was collected by the 78th Infantry Division G-2 Section.

Photographs of contemporary Berlin are by William Greenfield.

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