

# Berlin GI does his job under Communist guns

Story and Photo by ROBERT JOHNSON

BERLIN — Almost everyone stationed here has seen the signs posted around The Wall at least once. The ones that state "YOU ARE LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR."

There are about 445 of these signs in the American Sector, and it is the job of one man to maintain them.

Spec. 4 Walter E. Farnsworth, 287th MP Co, Special Troops, Berlin, travels around the border with extra signs, hammer and

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nails at least three times a week.

"You know, I don't smoke, but sometimes I get a little jittery and I light up a cigar," said Farnsworth, a 28-year-old native of Baraboo, Wis.

"Being that close under the muzzles of the guys in the guard towers isn't exactly fun.

"When I was in high school I heard about Checkpoint Charlie and the Iron Curtain, but never did I suspect that one day I would be patrolling the border between East and West Berlin and inspecting those warning signs.

"Sign No. 1 starts near Checkpoint Charlie and the signs go all the way around to the British Sector."

Taking care of 445 signs isn't enough for Farnsworth. In addition to being on call 24 hours a day, he finds the time to coach AYA basketball and baseball teams.

Then, in the spring, some of the German border guards and Farnsworth put the water bouys in the Wannsee and remove them in the fall.

"I like helping people and I think the kids are the greatest," he said. "I guess that's why I like military police work so much; I'm always helping someone."

(Robert Johnson is an information specialist assigned to the Special Troops Bn, U. S. Army, Berlin.)