

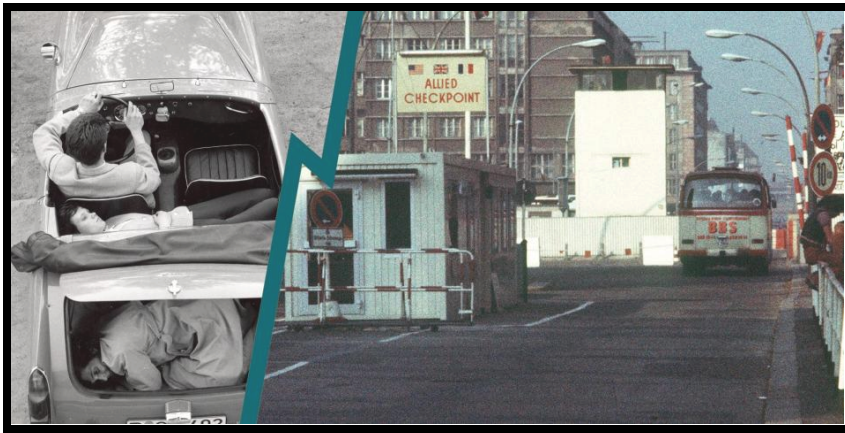
Escape on Wheels

By: EM

How would you feel if you were eager to get to a place you thought you couldn't? Would you resort to illegally using a car to smuggle someone or even be smuggled across a border in the small trunk with not much space at all? Crossing an illegal border in a small enclosed car to get someplace you normally can't, can be done, but definitely shouldn't. Though escape cars did not have much space inside, they could still hide away escapees.

Escaping in Cars 101

The main purpose of the escape cars was to help people escape. When the Berlin wall was constructed in 1961, people all throughout East Berlin were seeking ways to escape, well, ones that didn't end in death. In the article,



"10 Great Escapes Across The Berlin Wall", published by the Huffingtonpost, the author, Charlotte Alfred wrote that Heinz Meixner had been one of the first to have the great idea to use a car with a hiding spot to smuggle over a person from the East into the West to set them free from their misery. In the picture to the left, it shows Heinz Meixner with Thureau (his fiancée) and his mother hiding in the back of his convertible as they are

about to pass under the bar at Checkpoint Charlie. Charlotte wrote, "On May 5, 1963, with Thureau and her mother hiding in the back, Meixner drove the car to the border post-dubbed Checkpoint Charlie. When Meixner reached the inspection point, he ducked and stepped on the gas, pelting right under the barrier into West Berlin." This method of escape did work for Meixner, but sadly, only worked for a few other lucky people, because after using an escape car once, everybody in the surrounding area knew about them therefore guards could investigate all regions of the car before anyone departed, preventing the potential escapee from having a successful escape.

In the quote in the paragraph above, by Charlotte Alfred, she wrote, "Meixner drove the car to the border post-dubbed Checkpoint Charlie." When Escape attempts by an Escape car were made, the escape cars in East Berlin mostly used the method of driving under a short bar at a point in called Checkpoint Charlie, because of the efficiency of this method, but this didn't always result in success because those who attempted this escape had to release air out of their tires to lower the height of their car causing them to fit under the bar. In most places nowadays, escape cars don't have to let air out of their tires which makes it better for those escaping, but more of a pain for the police. Though escape cars weren't a success 100% of the time, they did sometimes fulfill their job, which was to help those eager to have a quick getaway on wheels that also comes with more protection from being seen, which eventually leads to having a lower chance at being killed.

Inside the Escape Car

Escapees Were hidden in many places inside of the Escape Cars. Though cars of all sorts, including escape cars, were mainly small back then, those that were desperate to escape found many places to hide those escaping inside of their vehicle. In the article, "8 Creative Ways People Went Over the Wall", by Ethan Trex, the author writes this, "Namely, it was missing its windshield. (A closer inspection would also have revealed that his mother was hiding in the trunk.) When the East



German guard directed Meixner to pull over to a customs shed, Meixner instead floored the accelerator and ducked. His tiny car slipped right under the three-foot-high barrier dividing the East from the West." In the picture to the left these two escapees were found hiding in the trunk of a red vehicle and after being found attempting to escape, were forced to take a picture in the back of the car in the trunk where they were hiding. Most of the time the Escapees in an escape attempt were found inside the trunk of the car, which seems like it has the most space compared to other more noticeable places in the car, like behind or under the seats. Unless a car was escaping with a child, the trunk would probably be the best

hiding spot for anyone willing to make an escape attempt in a car or any other motorized vehicle.

Though most escapes done inside of escape cars have had people hiding in the trunk of the car, there have been some other circumstances where those escaping weren't in the trunk, but in fact, hiding someplace elsewhere inside of the vehicle. In the article, "Driving Through the Berlin Wall", by Place to Be, they write, "After that Meixner practiced how to slalom with speed to avoid being shot at. He squeezed Margit and his mother in law behind the seats removed the windscreen and drove off to Checkpoint Charlie." Some people like Meixner didn't have enough trunk space or just didn't think of the idea, but his method of escaping worked better than most, so escaping in an escape car, no matter where you're hidden or where you're going, might just be the way to do it.

Escapes Around the World

Escape Cars were used in many places. Illegal immigration is still happening today in many country borders around the world, especially on the US/Mexico border. What's happening today is

people are illegally using cars stuffed with tons of people and crossing the US/Mexico border without permission. They are known to be escaping their home country illegally.

In the picture shown on the left, this prisoner was willing to ride on to of a police car after breaking out of jail just to get to what he would call freedom. David Rupkalvis writes in his article titled, "We do Need a Wall for Many Reasons", "Where I lived in Southern Arizona



was the No. 1 site in the nation for illegal immigration.” It is bad enough that people are illegally choosing to cross a country border but using cars in their evil plan too! In the same article Rupkalvis states, “once they reach a point where a car or truck is waiting, they abandon everything.” It has been known for decades that people are using cars to escape Mexico into the US or the US to Mexico but the fact that cars are smuggling people over illegally shows how big of a problem escape cars can be. Escape cars weren't just used at the Mexico/US border, in fact, they were even used back in the 1900s when the Berlin Wall was put up. In the article, “10 Great Escapes Across the Berlin Wall”, by Charlotte Alfred, the author wrote, “On May 5, 1963, with Thureau and her mother hiding in the back, Meixner drove the car to the border post-dubbed Checkpoint Charlie. When Meixner reached the inspection point, he ducked and stepped on the gas, pelting right under the barrier into West Berlin.” Even back when Berlin was separated by a wall, people were still using cars as a way to escape the place they were trapped in. Throughout history and even now, places all around the world have cars that are being used to set escapees free.

Though escape cars did not have much space inside, they could still hide away escapees. Escape cars had many places inside that the people could hide in to escape and even though they were small they did the job. Escape cars were used all over the world from places like Mexico to Berlin and successful and unsuccessful attempts were done all throughout history. If escaping to a place you thought you couldn't get to was as easy as driving a car, why don't people do it more often, or do they and we just don't know it?

Rubric rating submitted on: 2/26/2019, 12:44:07 PM by lschoenfeld@parkwayschools.net

	Advanced	Proficient	Improving	Developing	Beginning
Introduce a topic Advanced	Proficient+ My introduction draws readers in, making them want to read more.	I can introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow.	I introduce all of my topics, but some of my introductions are unclear.	I inconsistently introduce my topics.	I attempt to introduce my topics.
Organization Improving	Proficient+ The way I organize my writing contributes to meaning and comprehension.	I can produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are right for the task, purpose, and audience.	The big ideas in my writing follow a logical structure, but the smaller ideas sometimes need to be more logically organized.	Parts of my writing are easy to follow, while other parts are difficult to follow because they need to follow a logical structure.	My writing is difficult to follow because the ideas need to follow a logical structure.
Text Features Advanced	Proficient+ My text features greatly enhance the reading experience for my audience.	I can include formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia that are useful when organizing my	My text features help organize my writing and somewhat aid in comprehension.	My text features help organize my writing but do not further aid in comprehension.	My text features need to organize my writing and aid in comprehension and be relevant

		writing and aiding in comprehension.			to my main points.
Word Choice Proficient	Proficient+ I consistently use mature word choices and/or figurative language to contribute to creating clarity.	I can use precise and vivid language throughout the piece that includes relevant and persuasive word choice to keep the reader's attention.	I can use precise and vivid language throughout MOST of the piece.	I can use precise and vivid language throughout SOME PARTS of the piece.	I do not use precise or vivid language.
Conventions Proficient	Proficient+ I use advanced conventions correctly and appropriately.	I can create a text where my convention errors are minor and do not obscure meaning.	My convention errors minimally obscure meaning.	My convention errors often obscure meaning.	My convention errors obscure meaning to the point that comprehension of my ideas is difficult.

Comments:

+This is such an interesting topic! You did a great job with your teaching points.

-Avoid using the same direct quotes repeatedly. It confuses readers and makes them focus on the repeated quote rather than the message.