

Information from the Federal Border Police



Be alert at the GDR-Border

The East German (GDR) Border has proven to be a hazardous area for visitors who do not pay strict attention to the location of the actual border demarcation line. This frequently occurs because of the mistaken assumption that the area between the border demarcation line and the border fortifications is a NO MAN'S LAND.

However, there is NO NO MAN'S LAND along the GDR Border!!

Therefore, the Federal Border Police (BGS) is obligated to issue the following warnings:

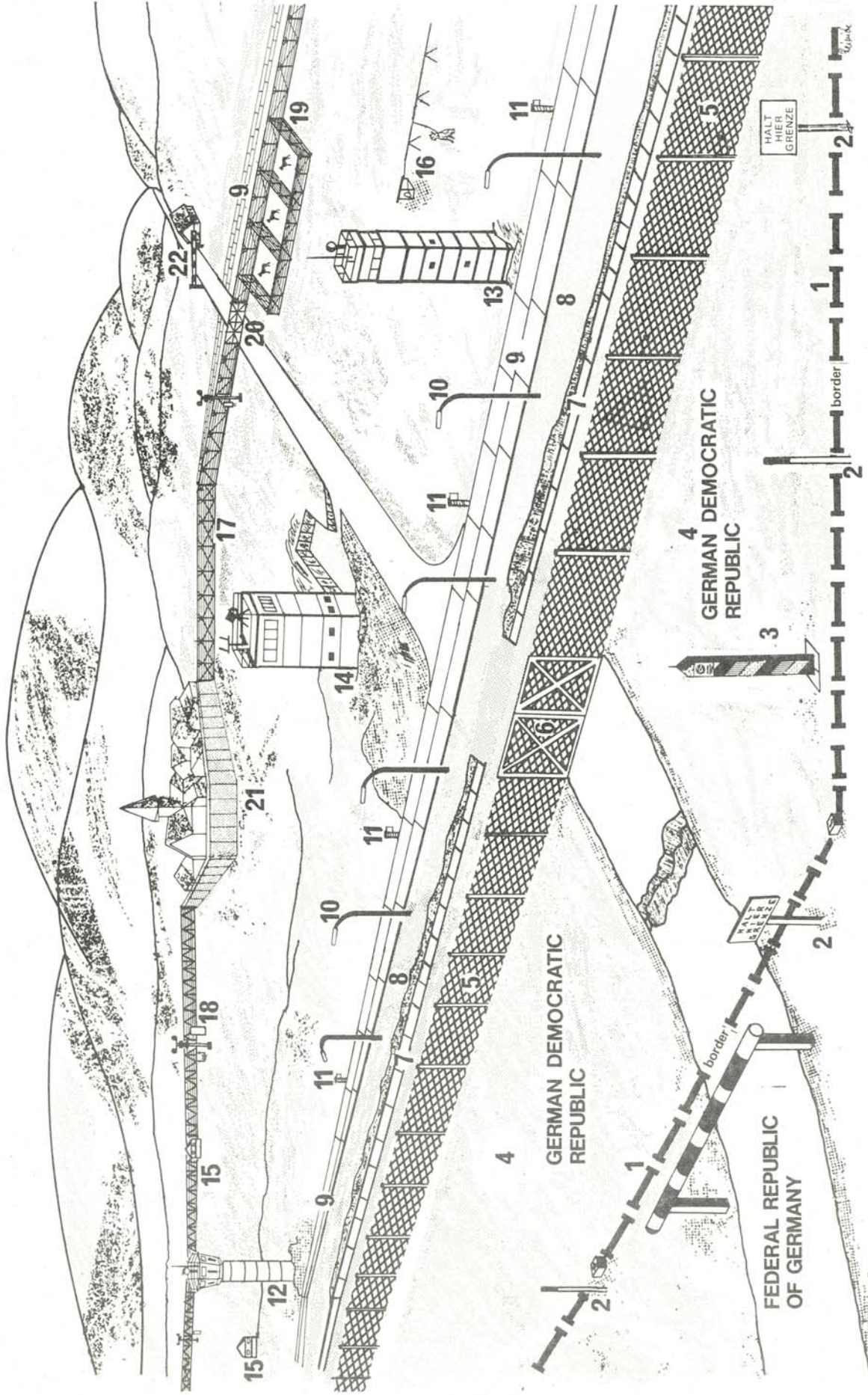
- 1.** GDR border fortifications – specifically the metal grid fences – do not represent the actual border demarcation line. Rather these GDR border fortifications are located on GDR Territory at various distances from the border demarcation line itself.
- 2.** The actual border demarcation line is marked by a series of border stones. In addition BGS has erected notice boards with the warning „Halt! Hier Grenze!“ which indicate the actual border.
- 3.** Persons visiting the border area must be aware of the location of the actual border demarcation line in order to avoid potentially dangerous situations for themselves or for others.
- 4.** The use of established roads and officially designated routes to observe the border is strongly recommended. The actual border demarcation line can best be recognized in those areas where roads or designated routes exist. Also, the East German border fortifications can best be observed from the numerous protected observation points which have been established for this purpose. Ask officials of the Federal Border Police (BGS), the Customs Service or other knowledgeable persons about the locations of such observation points.
- 5.** East and West German law differs significantly and it is well known that the GDR Border Troops carry out their border control functions in a rigid and harsh manner. Thus, those persons who violate GDR territory – either by accident or intentionally – run a very serious risk.

p.t.o.

SYSTEM OF GDR BORDER FORTIFICATION

Key:

- 1 borderline with boundary stones
- 2 border demarcation sign or post directly in front of the boundary
- 3 GDR marking post (1.80 m high, black-red-gold with GDR Emblem)
- 4 strip of terrain (deforested and cleared)
- 5 single metal grid fence (about 3.2 m high)
- 6 gateway in metal grid fence
- 7 vehicle barrier ditch (reinforced with concrete slabs)
- 8 about 6 or 2 meter control strip (detection strip)
- 9 patrol road
- 10 light barrier
- 11 contact point for reporting net
- 12 concrete observation tower (BT 11)
- 13 concrete observation tower (2 x 2 m)
- 14 concrete observation tower (4 x 4 m, partially with command point)
- 15 observation bunker
- 16 runway for dogs on the leash
- 17 restricted zone fence with electrical and acoustic alarms
- 18 installations for power distribution and switching at the restricted zone fence
- 19 dog runway
- 20 gateway in restricted zone fence
- 21 concrete wall/screen
- 22 entry control for restricted zone



zone between borderline (1) and entry point (22) = restricted area (about 5 km)
 zone between borderline (1) and restricted zone fence/concrete wall (17/21) = restricted zone (100 — 2000 m)