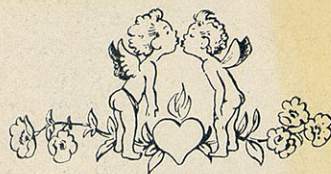
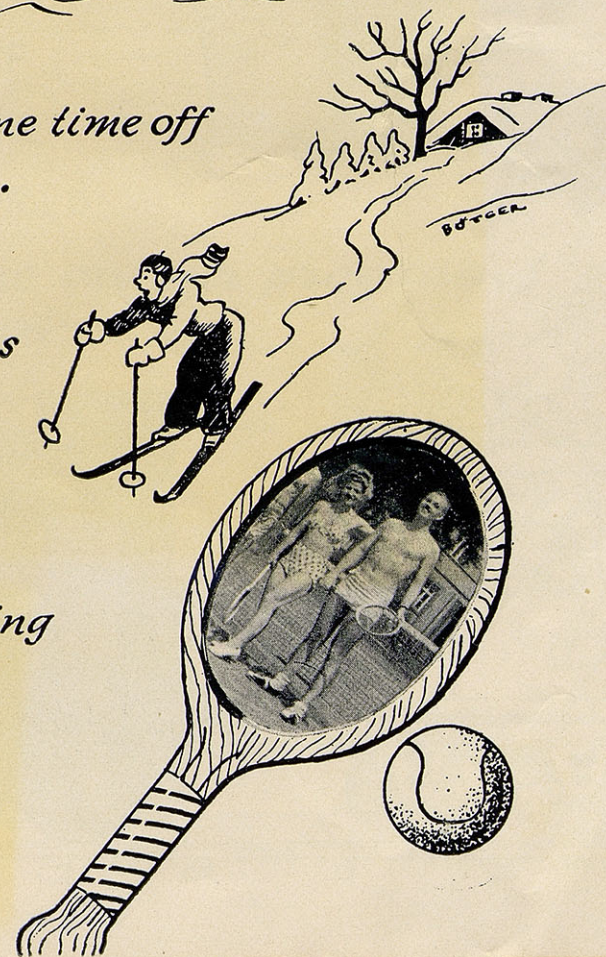


*We also take some time off
for recreation.*

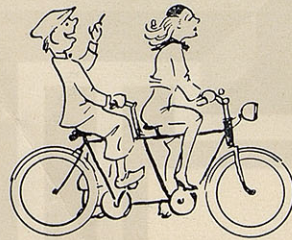
*We like
sailboating
playing tennis
bicycling
swimming
skating
skiing and
horseback riding*



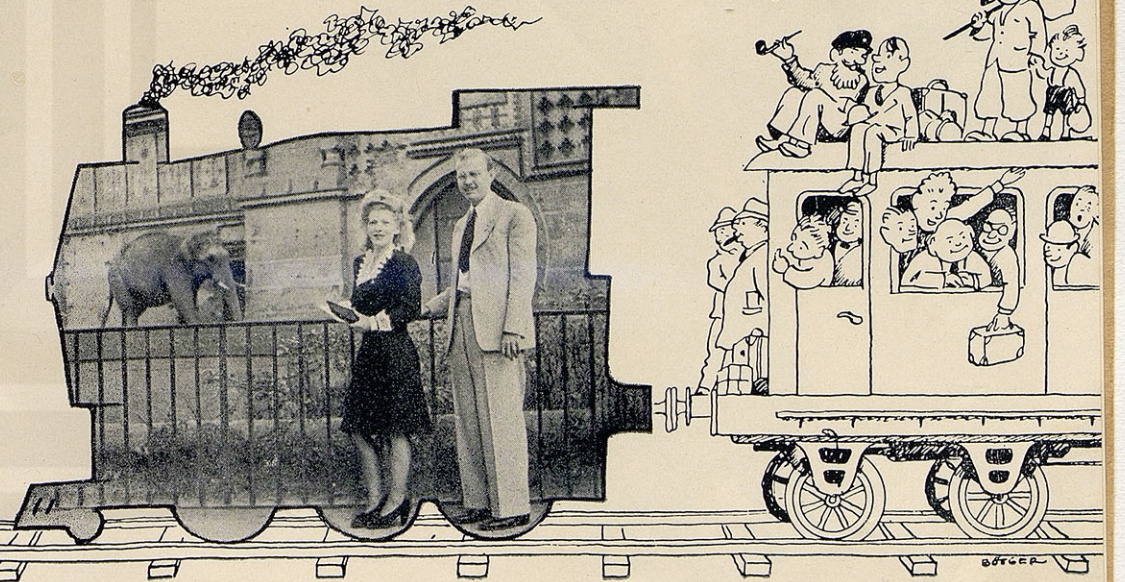
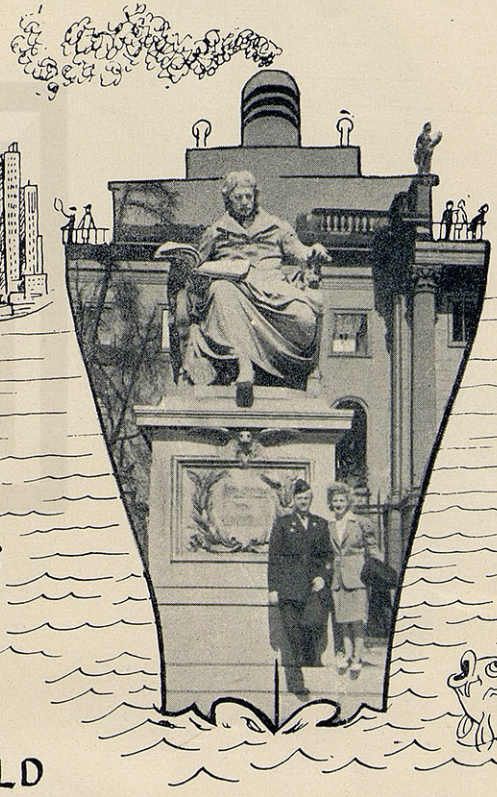


Travel

TO ALL
PARTS
OF
THE
WORLD



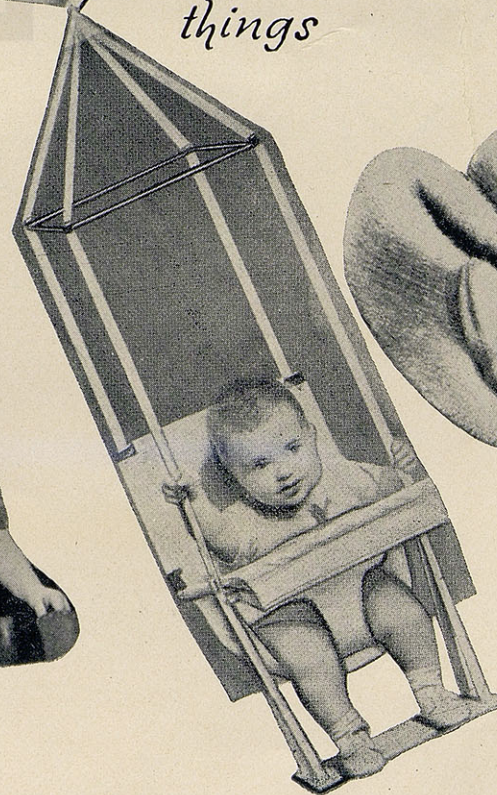
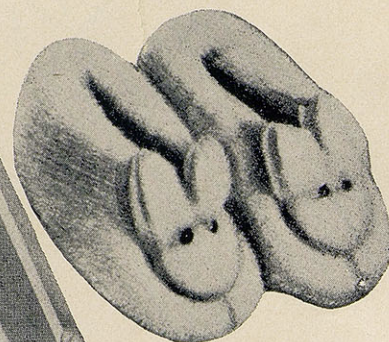
is also on our program!

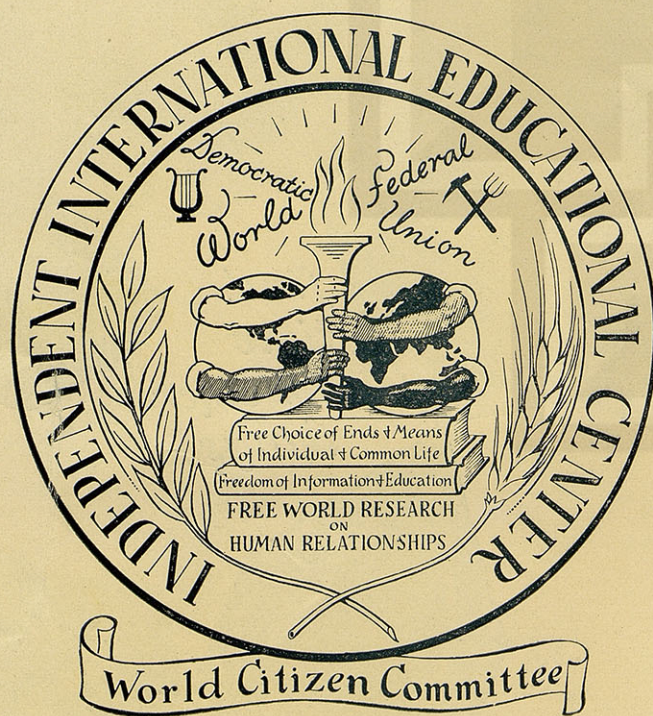


*And we
might*



*find
time
for other
things*





THE GROOPER

VOLUME I, NUMBER 22

BERLIN

22 DECEMBER 1945

Weekly Newspaper, Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.)



56-59 Pointers Leave Dec. 26

"Peace, Hope Progress" - General Clay

Our Christmas will be spent this year far away from home in the battered remains of Berlin.

We have seen first-hand the havoc and destruction of war. We have a grim task ahead which calls for the punishment of those who caused aggressive war.

However, this task does not call for punitive measures against the German people. Here it is our task to help them regain faith in each other and, in so doing, a renewed determination for self-government under democratic processes which assure the rights of the individual.

This is a task of faith and hope which reconciles us to our absence from home and makes us understand more fully the spirit of Christmas.

Somehow the old greeting of "Merry Christmas" does not seem appropriate in Berlin this year. So may I wish to each and every one of you instead a Christmas of peace and understanding and a New Year of hope and progress in which we may be privileged to contribute to a better Christmas for all next year and the years after; to "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men".

Lucius D. Clay
Lieutenant General
U. S. Army

Little Theater Casts New Comedy Production Here

"The Male Animal", a three-act comedy by James Thurber and Elliott Nugent, has been selected as the American Little Theater of Berlin's next vehicle for presentation at Onkel Tom's theater in the near future, it has been announced by Lt. Patrick H. Byrnes, Little Theater officer.

The casting was held at Curtain House Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. as this paper went to press, excluding the opportunity of announcing the names of the selected leading players. It was pointed out, however, that the most likely candidate for directing the production is Sgt. Charles Ellis.



CLAY

OMGUS Slates Full Program For Christmas

OMGUS personnel will find a high-powered Christmas entertainment schedule lined up for them as they leave this afternoon for a three and one-half day holiday.

Parties, dances, special film shows, floor shows, carol singing and sports events crowd the long weekend's calendar of events. The program will extend throughout the Christmas-New Year's week, according to present plans.

Leading off the Special Services is the basketball game this afternoon at 2 p. m. in Gymnasium Number Two between the OMGUS cagemen and a team from the 296th MP's. Other activities today include a special motion picture matinee at Onkel Tom's Theater at

(Continued on page 3)

Some 55 ers May Ship Out On Wednesday

by Roger Valdes

G-I Personnel heads this week gave OMGUS GIs with point totals ranging from 56 to 59 their best Christmas present when they announced that a total of 282 enlisted men with critical scores in that bracket will leave Berlin on Wednesday, December 26.

The shipment, which will total an even 300 with the eight officers also eligible for redeployment, is scheduled to entrain in Berlin en route to the 93rd Tank Destroyer Battalion in Hadamar, Germany, in the Western Military District of the U. S. Zone.

The 893rd is the vehicle which will carry the high pointers to the United States and eventual discharge.

The group, which will clear out all 56 pointers and possibly a few 55 pointers, was originally slated to ship out on December 9, but was knocked off the redeployment list by a USFET (Rear) order which arrived at this headquarters after orders had been cut.

The dispatch of this shipment to a homeward-bound carrier unit means that replacement depots will be bypassed and the men will be processed within the TD battalion with which they will travel.

Just how great the time lapse between the date the OMGUS group reaches the TD outfit in Hadamar and the actual movement to the harbor will be, neither 7th Army Headquarters nor the Battalion commander himself knew when queried by OMGUS AG officials. Reliable opinion is, however, that the 893rd will move to the POE the first or second week in January.

Redeployment officials here were unable to make any official prediction as to the dates when the remainder of the 55 pointers, now eligible for discharge, can expect to leave for home. It is assumed, however, that a quota to cover them will come early in January. When this group, approximately 87 strong, leaves, they too will ship to a redeploying outfit in the Western Military District rather than to a replacement depot.

One Interpreter, Please ...



THE GROOPER

Published weekly by the Information and Education Section of Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.), at AG Publications plant in Berlin. Articles on Divisions, Branches, or Section of OMGUS should be submitted through the Public Relations officer of the unit concerned. GROOPER telephone number is 84-6751.

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Christmas Prayer

The year 1944, the 25th December.

Remember?

God be with us if you forget quickly —

You who starved, fought, and froze that day.

Christmas colors were the same;
Red and white,
Our blood on snow,
Shadowed by the green of German firs.

It was a prayerful Christmas.

Prayers not for gifts —

Our gifts were wrapped in steel's hell;
Our Yuletide decorations —

Strings of scarlet machine gun tracers,
Stars of silver-flame phosphorus.

We prayed for ourselves that day
And in the interminable days that followed.

Our prayers, like those of all soldiers
clasping hands with Death,
Were not in patriotic fervor for a nation.

We prayed to Christ, the greatest of
all Gifts,
For ourselves.

The year 1945, the 25th December.

Today.

Christmas in peace, Christmas again
in Germany.

A day still echoing prayers

From that day a year ago —

Unselfish now, not for ourselves alone.

Our Father,
Clasp our hands and lead us, Thy
children.

Lead us to the light of world peace.

Let us bathe in it that we,

The followers and leaders,

May know the formula.

Give us strength to make Thy plan
work.

Give us courage to walk head-up
Against the evil forces

Striving to envelop and destroy this
world.

Give us wisdom to distinguish those
who would make peace
A living force

From those who would use the people
of the world.

Greatest of all, give us faith to do
Thy will.

Amen.



Movie Schedule

Movie times: Evening performances at 6:45 p. m. and 8:45 p. m.; Special Christmas and Saturday matinees at 2 p. m.

SUNDAY

"HER HIGHNESS AND THE BELLBOY": Mildly-diverting fantasy with its main attributes the unique style of Miss Heddy Lamarr.

MONDAY

CHRISTMAS MATINEE: Special Motion Picture — "Radio Stars on Parade" and Stage Show.

Evening Show: "HER HIGHNESS AND THE BELLBOY."

TUES-WED

CHRISTMAS MATINEE: Same as Monday's.

Evening Show: "GOD IS MY CO-PILOT": Dennis Morgan and Raymond Massey in this tale of heroic Yank aviators in China.

THURSDAY

"GOD IS MY CO-PILOT."

FRIDAY

"DUFFEY'S TAVERN": Ed "Archie" Gardner and an assorted group of screwballs make this an enjoyable picture.

SATURDAY

"DUFFEY'S TAVERN": Matinee at 2:30 p. m. in addition to two regular evening shows.

New Schedule For Gym No. 1

Under a new plan inaugurated this week, OMGUS Gymnasium Number One will be reserved every Monday from 9 a. m. to 11 p. m. for Badminton and Volleyball play.

In addition, it will be given over to officer personnel Tuesday and on Wednesday and Friday nights from 6:30 p. m. to 10:30 p. m. will be reserved for WACs.

Church Call

PROTESTANT

Sunday: 1100 hours, General Protestant Service at the Protestant Church on Onkel Tom Straße, opposite the Onkel Tom Theater. Take subway to Onkel Tom Hutte.

Sunday: 1145 hours, Communion Service at Protestant Church.

Monday: 2330 hours, Christmas Eve service at the Protestant Church on Onkel Tom Strasse.

Wednesday: 1200 hours, Midweek Service at Service Chapel, 92 Gary Strasse.

Friday: 1945 hours, Choir practice at Protestant Church.

CATHOLIC

Sunday: 0930 hours, Mass at Sacred Heart Church, corner of Kronprinzen Allee and Riemester Straße. Busses will leave for Catholic Church from Main Hdqs. and gate at entrance to Regiment Area at 0915 hours.

Sunday: 1100 hours, Mass at Goethe Hall, Near Officers Mess, 20 Ihne Straße.

Sunday: 1900 hours, Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Daily Mass, 1200 hours, Monday through Saturday except Wednesday. Service Chapel, 92 Gary Strasse.

Monday: 2400 hours, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

Tuesday: 0930 hours, Mass at Sacred Heart Church; 1100 hours, Mass at Harnack House; 1900 hours, Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

Tuesday: Novena and Benediction after evening Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

Thursday: Choir practice after evening Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

JEWISH

Sabbath Service

Friday, 7:30 p. m., at Goethe Hall, Near Officers' Mess, 20 Ihne Str.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Sunday: 1100 hours, at Service Chapel, 92 Gary Strasse.

Wednesday: 2000 hours, at Service Chapel.



By Harold Kempner

The most hopeful political sign in Germany at present is the continuous cooperation of the Unity Bloc of the four anti-fascist parties and the emergence of trade union organizations throughout the occupied zones. If there is any chance of transforming the present-day Germany into a peace-loving democratic state, as envisioned at the Potsdam conference, it will lay with the best elements of the democratic parties and the trade unions now being built.

The Unity Bloc of Communist, Social Democratic, Christian-Democratic and Liberal Democratic parties was formed in Berlin in July. These parties signed a pact "to create a firm united front of the anti-fascist democratic parties in order to solve with united forces the great tasks." They included:

Cooperation for the purge of Germany from all revivals of Hitlerism and for the rebuilding of the country on anti-fascist democratic basis. Fight against the poison of Nazi ideology and imperialist-militaristic ideas.

Restitution of full justice on the basis of a democratic, lawful state. Security for the freedom of thought and conscience as well as respect of every religious opinion. Prevention of every attempt to spread hate against other people.

Honest readiness to carry through the measures of the occupying authorities and recognition of our duty for reparations.

It was the first time in German history that democratic parties got together on a common platform with a common policy. It was the split of the labor movement and of the whole anti-Nazi camp that made victory of Nazism possible. Even the two labor parties, Social Democratic and Communist, were fighting each other while all the reactionary forces were unified in pre-Hitler days. Now these parties have joint committees dealing with practical and ideological questions and maintain a united front on practically all main issues.

Another encouraging sign is the great initiative of German workers in organizing themselves in trade unions along the lines of freedom and self-expression.

Brig. Gen. Frank McSherry, director of the Manpower Division of OMGUS, recently stated that trade unionists are practically the only ones in Germany who admit German war guilt and want to work to rebuild and compensate for the damage done and the millions of people harmed. From these workers and their democratically-elected leaders, the general believes, will come the men who will lead Germany.

No one expects the German people suddenly to attain political maturity and embrace democratic ideas wholeheartedly in any short period. Political activity so far is confined principally to limited circles while the public is apathetic. But the program of the Unity Bloc and the trend within the trade unions is a good omen. It should be supported and encouraged. It is the only hope of building a new, democratic Germany.

THE GROOPER
Holiday Supplement



I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas



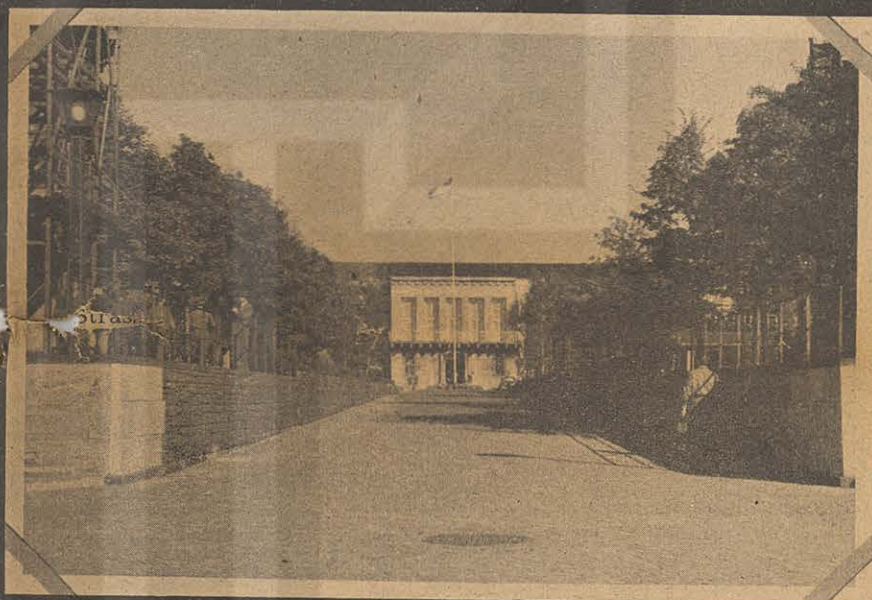
Album



The band plays the flag down in a retreat ceremony at Hoescht, Hurst, or was it Hurst-st.



The move to Berlin started in July. the lucky ones flew, the others trucked and railroaded up.



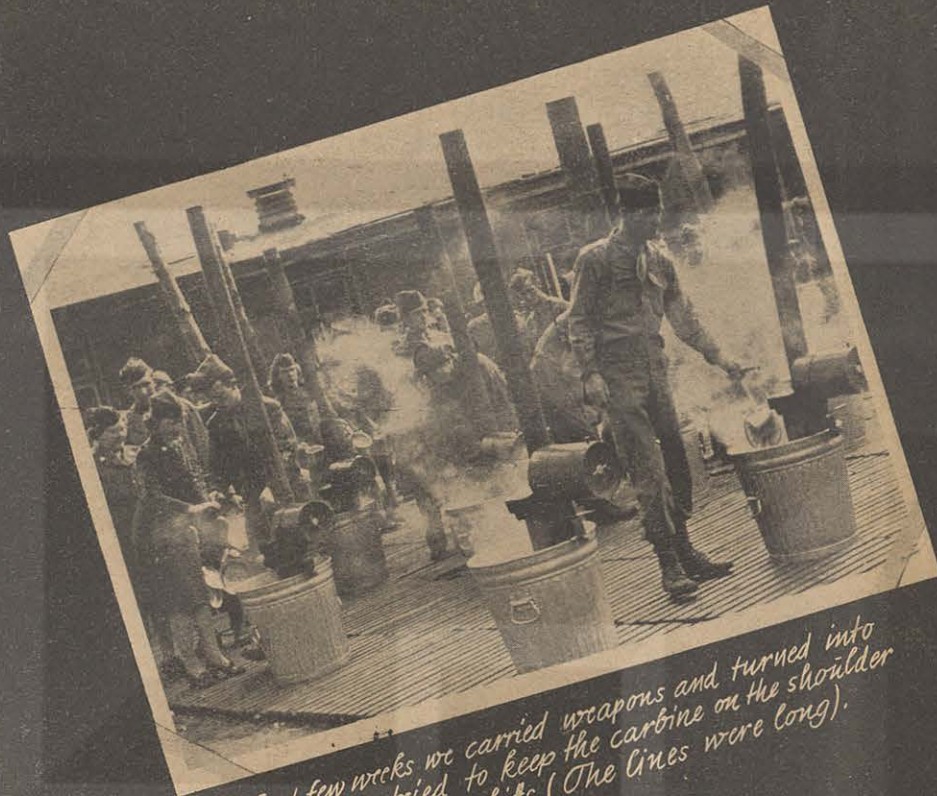
Scaffolding was still on the headquarters buildings - former Luftwaffe nerve-center when the move north was completed. The name was Group-Control Council for Germany (U.S.) then.



Room and board proved good, although mess kits were in order for the first weeks.



Novelty for us was the U-Bahn with its yellow painted cars, every 20 minute service. Onkel Tom's here, Oskar Helene Heim only a few minutes up the track.



The first few weeks we carried weapons and turned into jugglers as we tried to keep the carbine on the shoulder and still wash mess kids. (The lines were long).



By the time most of us arrived, the Crown Prince American Red Cross Club was a going concern and coffee and doughnuts plus a half hour's conversation became a morning habit.



Many GIs got their first glimpse of the Russians as they sight-saw bombed-battered Berlin. One Soviet cameraman posed us in this international group.



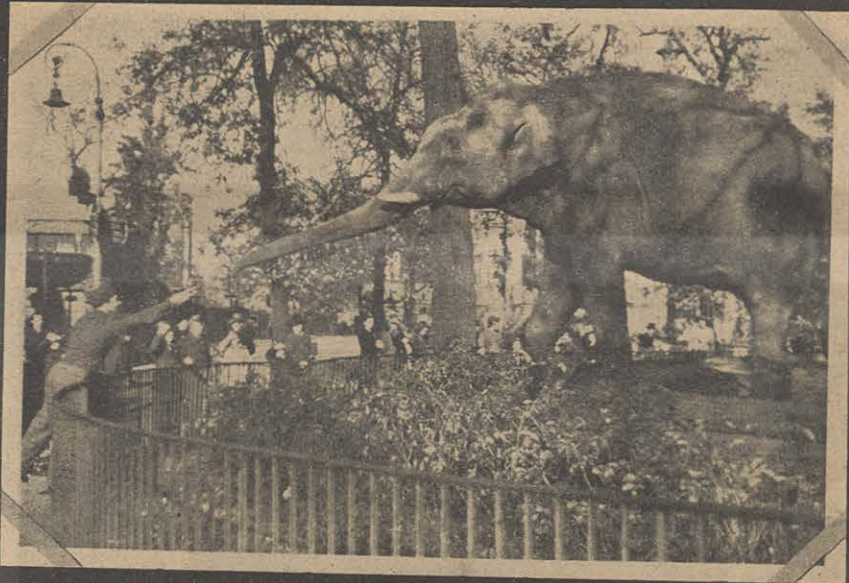
Trade was always brisk at the Tiergarten.



They called it "fraternization".

Nightclubs sprang up wherever the rubble could be cleared on the Kurfürstendamm and five nationalities were their patrons.

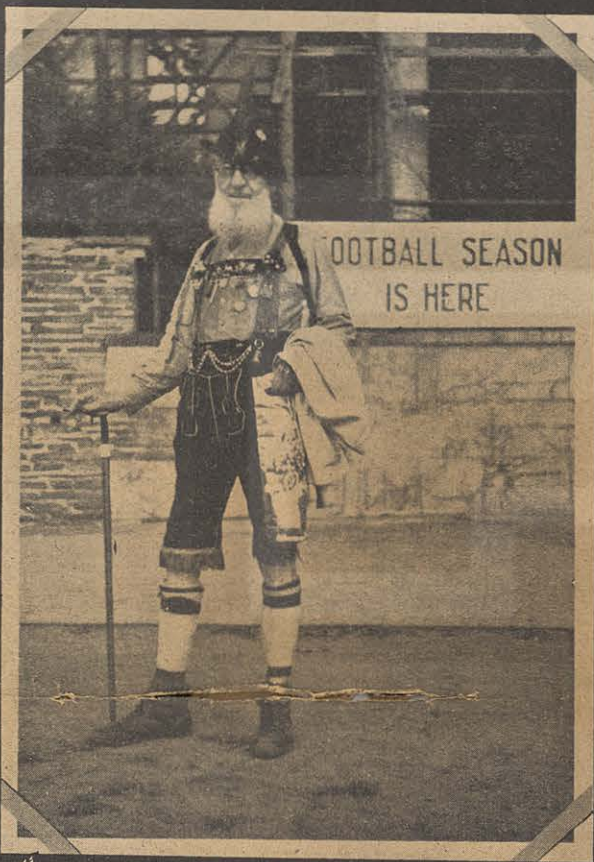




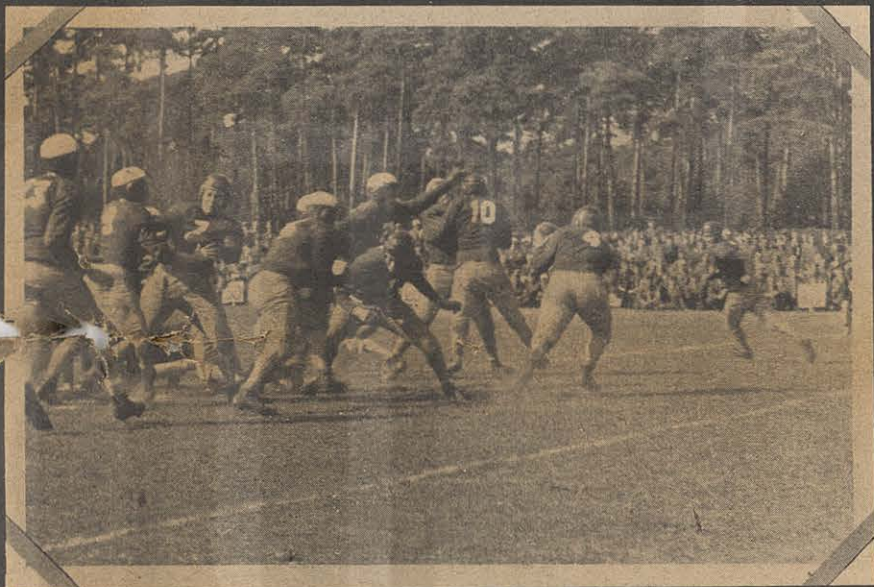
The city zoo still boasted a collection of animals worth a Sunday afternoon's visit.



The warm weather held up long enough for a series of ARC-Waukegan picnics. Sun, water, cokes and hotdogs made a perfect combination.



Nope, we weren't that hard up for players. Pop just happened along.



The OMBUS deen was light, but scrappy. Those Saturday afternoons were a chunk of home.



Our WACs did us proud, winning the ETO softball championship in this game at Nice.



Just about everybody and his bud lay had a dog and we all started to keep our canine companions well-fed.



The I+B unit school opened and offered a batch of good courses. (My rusty German was dusted off in one of the classrooms.)



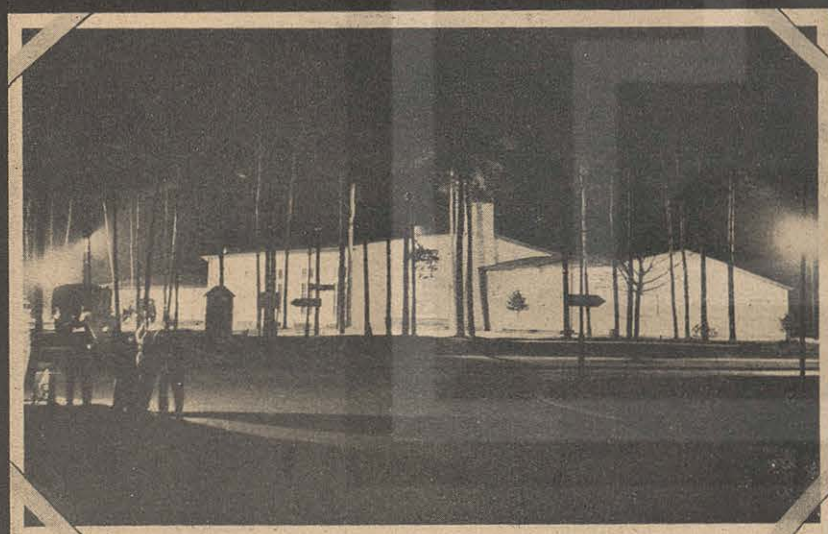
One of the parties that filled the Saturday-Sunday program gets into full swing as some Whis and the boys harmonize.



The presence of Miss MARLENE DIETRICH made the Little Theater's first premiere a much more memorable occasion. The show was "Cradle Snatchers"---and good.



That old Berlin devil Money really raised the dickens in October. GIs slept in the Post office, as November (control-book month) drew near, to make certain that they'd get their money orders out.

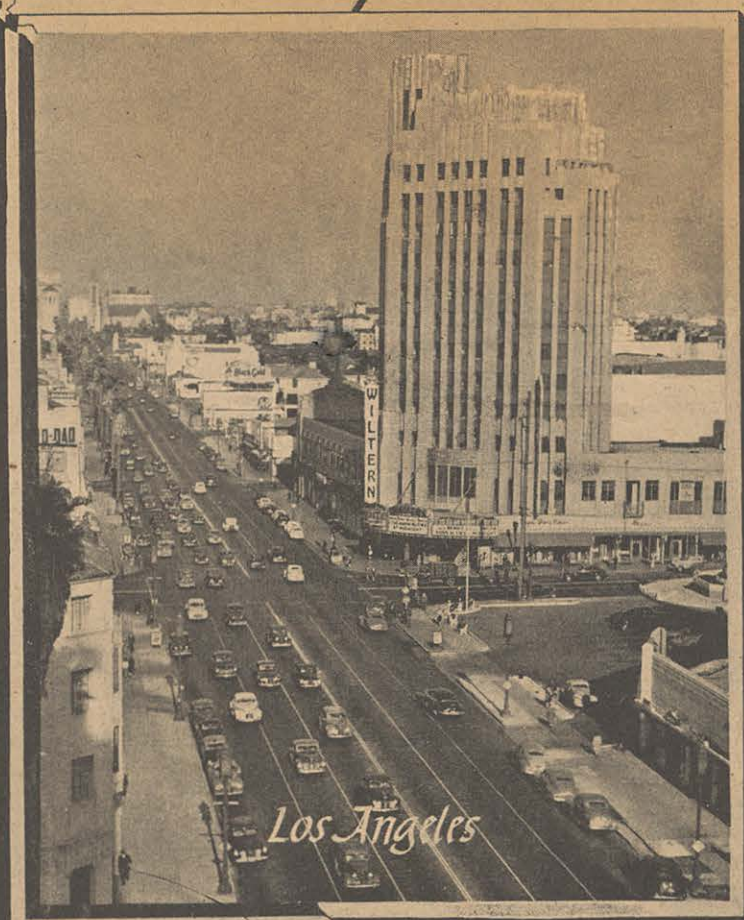
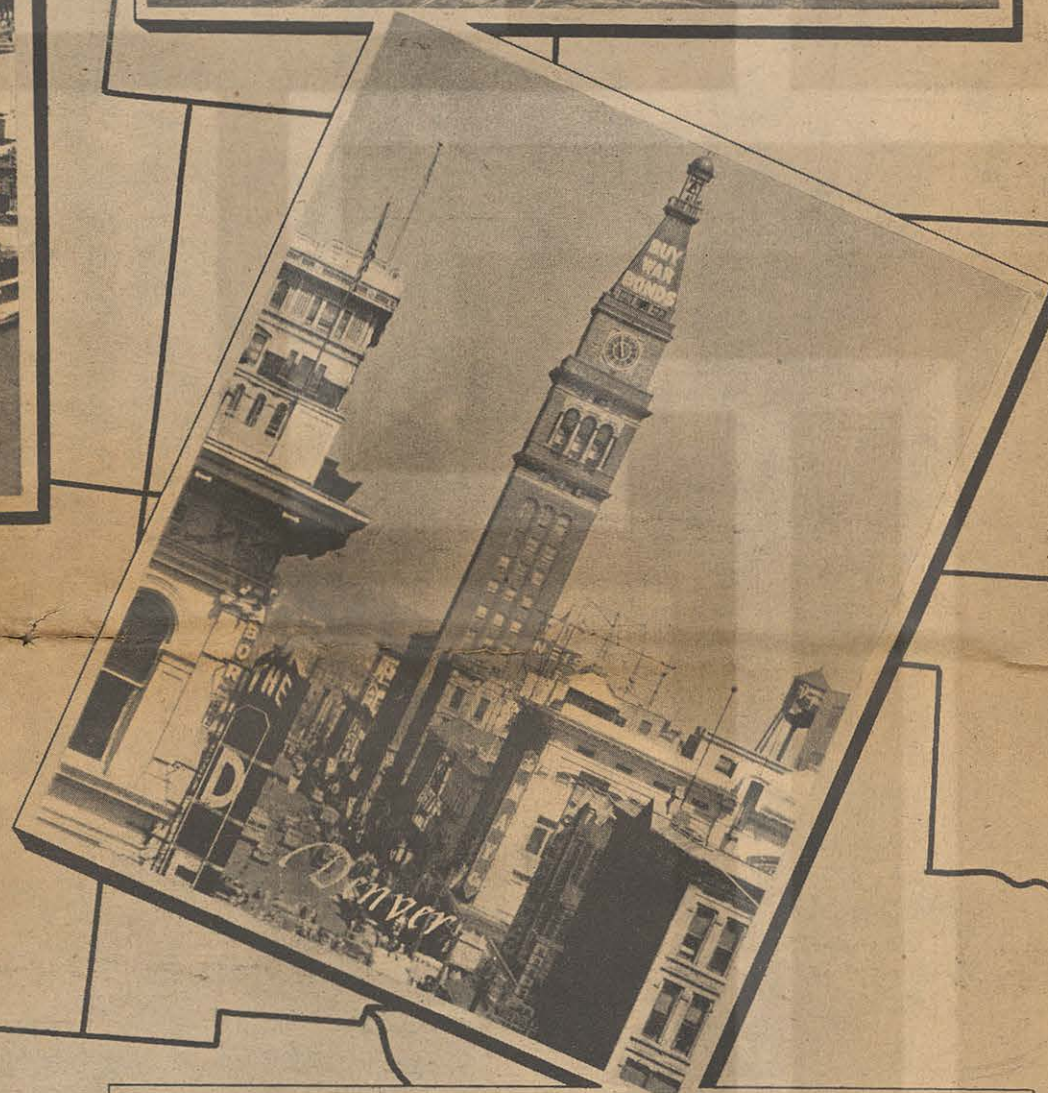


"CLUB 48" opened in the sharp coldness of mid-November and swiftly became the nightly gathering place of OMGUS enlisted personnel.



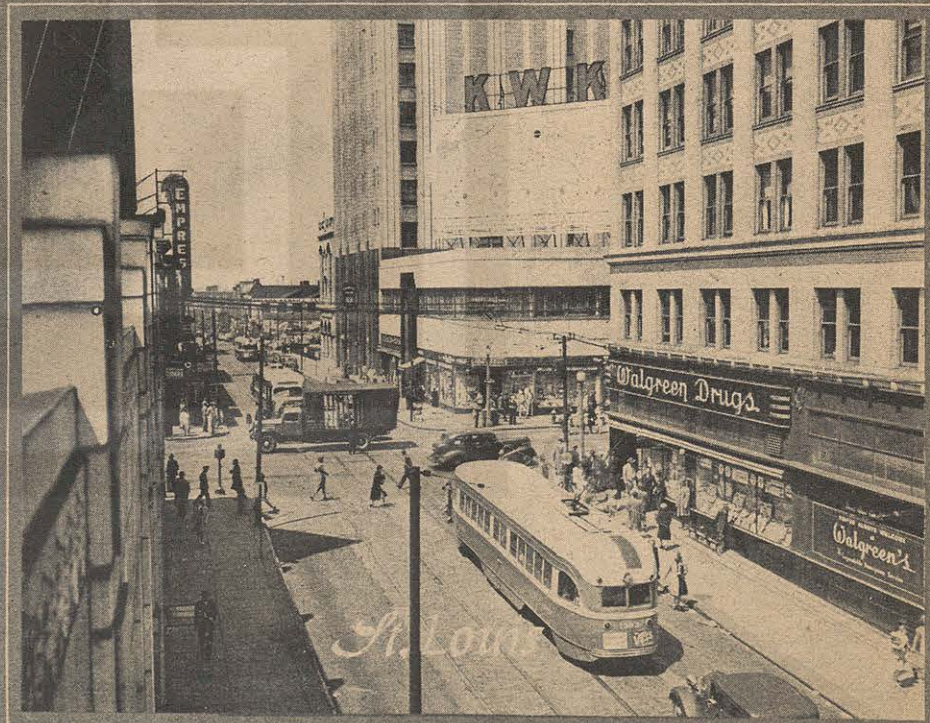
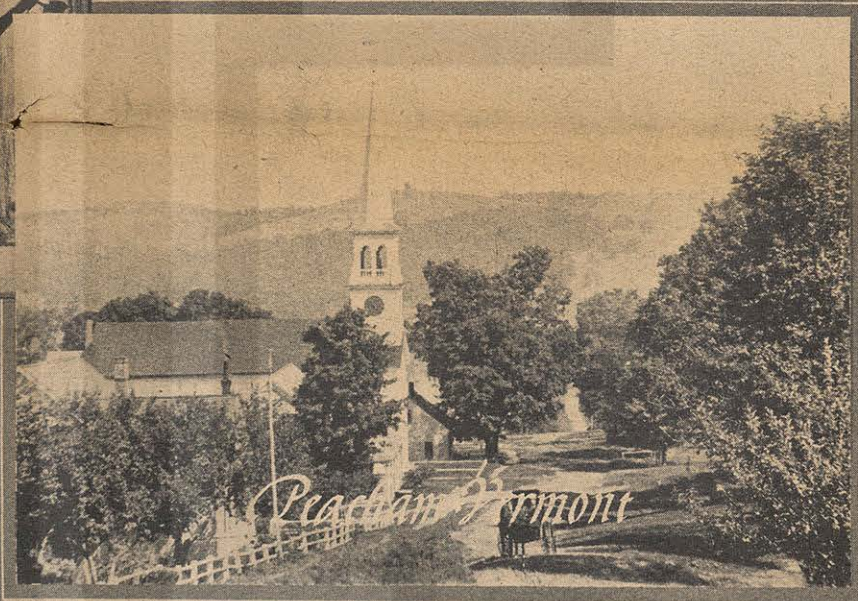
Sports moved indoors too with the formation of intramural leagues and the debut of a potent OMGUS team.

U.S.A.





Hometown, AMERICA





HOMeward



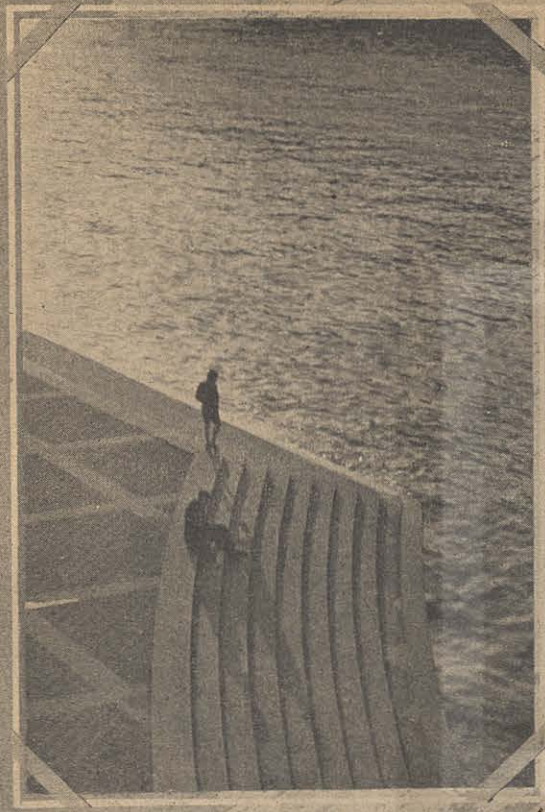
Evening Sun

Grooper



Gravure

SUMMER SKY



SUNSET ON THE SEINE

PORTRAIT IN SPIRES

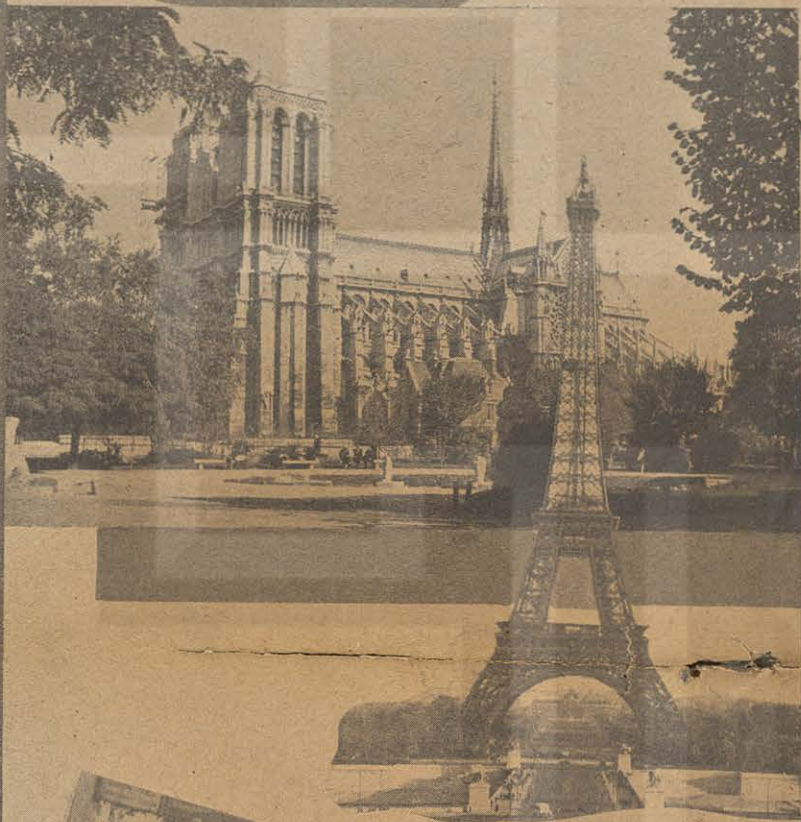


EXPECTATIONS

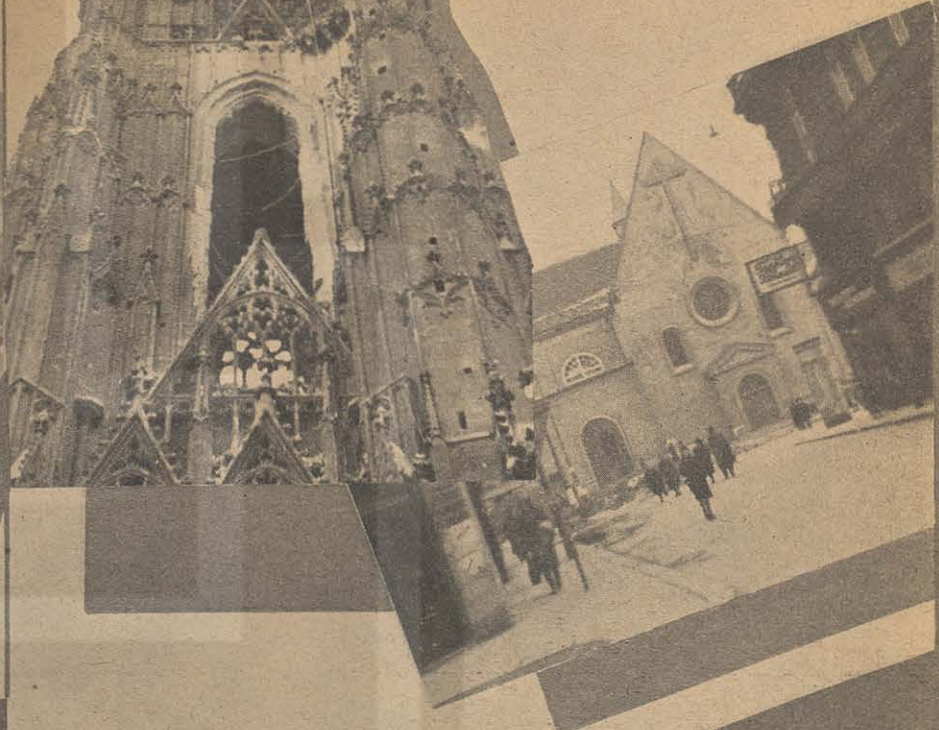


The GROOPER Camera

Paris



Vienna







Six months ago American, British and French soldiers joined their Russian Allies in Berlin. They came together here to exercise quadripartite rule over all Germany, an experiment in government unique in history.

The four nations with different economic systems and political philosophies were now in complete control of a conquered enemy and faced the opportunity to remove the desire, as well as the ability, of Germany to wage wars by enforcing a strict occupation policy.

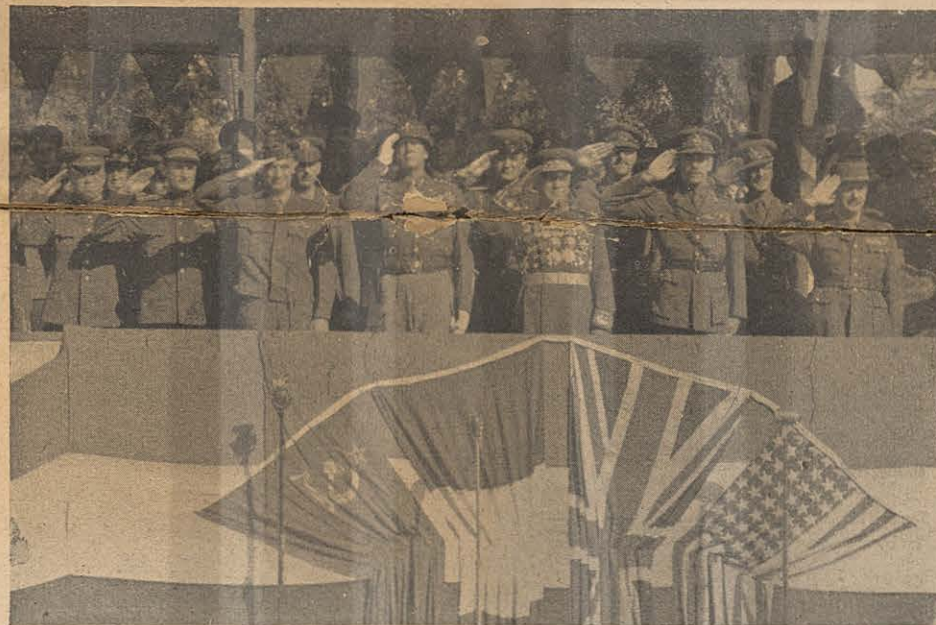
Though the immediate concern of the Allies was that of running Berlin, the capital of their defeated foe became the testing ground of their ability to reach agreements on many vast and complex problems involved in ruling the whole country and affecting the future of world peace. Berlin thus became the focal point of the world.

There were some observers and born skeptics who predicted that Berlin would be cut up into four isolated zones with armed guards barring the way from one sector to another. They expressed fears that conflicting policies and disagreements would doom Allied cooperation in Germany.

There were misunderstandings and clashes, but on the whole, those fears and predictions proved baseless.

The Allied Kommandatura which had been established to govern the capital was able to reach agreements on all major problems. The principle that all of Berlin should be run by all the four powers rather than each sector by the forces that occupied it prevailed. Uniform laws were established and such fundamentals as rations, wages and prices became the same throughout the city. There was nothing to prevent Allied military personnel from driving into any sector of the city.

The Allied Control Council which assumed supreme authority over Germany is doing well in tackling fundamental problems in its government of Germany. It has been guided by the



THE ALLIES meet formally (above) and informally (below) in Occupied Berlin



principles set down by the Potsdam Declaration. Disagreements on some problems were settled because the Allies were willing to make concessions and yield. The notable exception involving a basic conflict of policy,

that dealing with the establishment of German central administrative departments which is opposed by the French, may soon be solved as steps are being taken in the right direction. In general, relations among the

Allies in the higher and lower levels are good. Members of the Council and Kommandatura get along quite well with each other. There have been incidents among Allied troops in Berlin, as they were bound to be, but they were mostly overpublicized and exaggerated. These incidents must be viewed in the same vein as those taking place anywhere in the world where soldiers of various armies and branches of service get together and are overzealous and touchy about the relative merits of their service. Family brawls are common and should be considered as such.

Added to this has been the basic barrier of different languages. The adage that you've "got to speak a man's language" is still true, but despite this, Ivan and GI Joe, the British Tommy and the French Polio found friends among the other nations' soldiers—good friends.

Allowances were made for the different national environments and customs and by the end of 1945 incidents were fewer and much farther between; friendships more solid and lasting.

Something which few commentators failed to take into account was the longing for home felt by the men of the four powers, a longing which often made them seek entertainment and relaxation to an excess. But despite the barriers, despite the hyper-tension atmosphere of four-power Berlin, cooperation was real, evident, tangible.

The Berlin experiment of Allied cooperation may definitely be called a success. The history of the war and its winning was a story of Allied teamwork. The history of the six months of Allied occupation of Berlin and Germany follows that same pattern quite closely. Those months have proven that Allied cooperation is not only possible, but practicable and desirable. Peace is far harder to win than war, but the Allies, on both high and low levels, are taking the unified road that will bring this second and greater victory.

OMGUS Cagers Meet 296th MP's Today

"C" Downs "F" In Top Game Of Cage Week

It was a battle for second place in the Regimental League as Company "C" met the third-place "F" cagers in the week's most exciting game. The contest went down to the final whistle with just a few points separating the two teams, but it was "C" Company's night and they retained their grip on the runner up spot in the league by coming out on the long end of a 34-31 score.

Time after time, one team scored a basket to pull ahead, only to have its opponent come charging back and even the score. The crowd which watched the game saw some of the finest ball handling and shooting yet exhibited in intra-OMGUS play.

For the victorious "C" courtmen, it was Guappone at Forward and Gordon at center leading the attack. Scott of "F" was the game's high scorer with 13 points as he battled in a losing cause.

In the opening contest of the week, the league-leading "A" aggregation had little difficulty with "D" hoopsters as it piled up a 48-8 win. Fink of "A" had a field day as he sank 13 field goals and 1 free toss to rack up 27 points.

The third game on the Monday evening card was won the easy way by Company "B" as they took a forfeit from "E".

Tuesday opened with another battle for a top position as "F" successfully beat off "B" Company's attack on third place, defeating the challenger 47-32. Taking an early lead, "F" played smart, heads-up ball all the way to maintain their advantage. Gunell with 13 and Scott with 12 points led the "F" cagers, while Bowers of "B" racked up 13 markers.

In the second game, Regimental Headquarters nosed out Company "G", 35-31. Mohart of Regimental sank 8 field goals for a total of 16 points and top scoring honors, while Williams led the losers with 12 points.

The third game was the seventh win in a row without a loss for the highflying Company "A" five as they scored a lopsided 61-39 victory over "H". Another "A" man got hot as Chandler sank a total of 23 points, while Haines topped the losers with 15 markers.

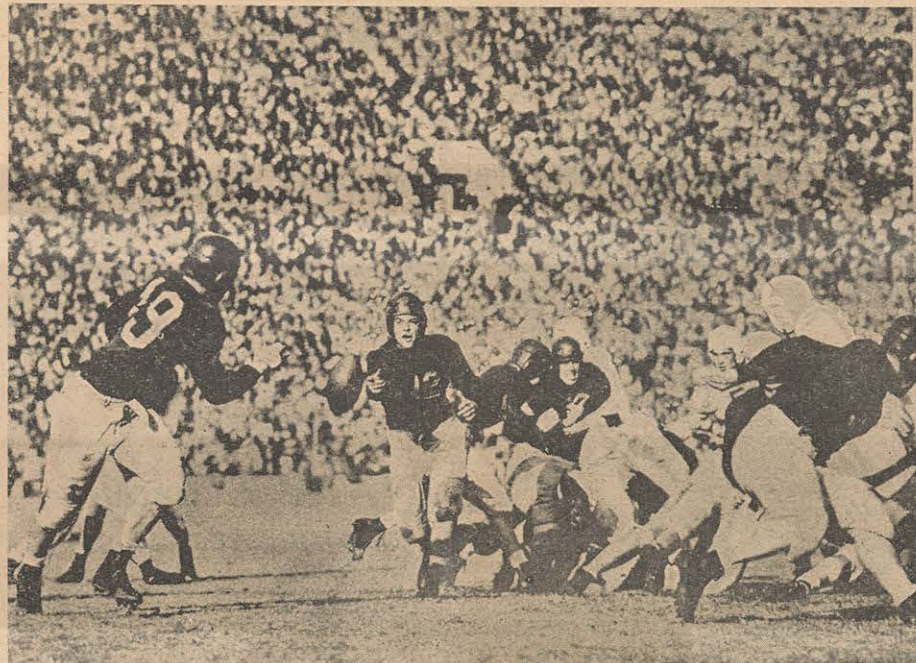
Special Troops League play opened Thursday night with Special Service walloping Navy by a 70-43 count. Samson with 21 points topped the SSO scorers, while Milodewski with 16 lead for the losers.

In the evening's second game, the 822nd MP Company downed the Allied Secretarial Division, 55-47, in a tight, well-played contest. Klie and Honson were the game's high scorers with 14 points each. John Brown sparked the MP attack, garnering 13 markers.

Friday's first game saw the 822nd MP Company down the Medical Detachment five, 40-30.

In the second game, the Legal Division was victor over the Allied Secretarial Division in a tight, low-scoring ballgame, 24-19.

The week's final game went to the Civilian Administration Division as they downed the Economics cagemen by a 28-17 count.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, the West's representative in the Rose Bowl, gives a display of the slick ball handling that Alabama can expect when the two teams meet in the New Year's Day classic.

The picture shows Bowman (12) tossing a lateral pass to Cole (49) for Southern Cal's third touchdown in its game with UCLA. The meeting decided the Western Rose Bowl entry as Southern Cal came out on the top side of a 25-13 score.

Basketball Roundup

Regimental Standing				
TEAM	GAMES	WON	LOST	%
Co. "A"	7	7	0	1000
Co. "C"	7	6	1	857
Co. "F"	7	5	2	714
Co. "B"	7	4	3	571
Regt. Hqs.	6	3	3	500
Co. "G"	6	2	4	333
Co. "H"	6	2	4	333
Co. "E"	7	1	6	142
Co. "D"	7	0	7	000

Special Troops Standing				
Team	WON	LOST	%	
822nd MP Co	5	1	833	
131st Trk Co	5	1	833	
Special Service	5	1	833	
Med Det	4	2	666	
Navy	3	3	500	
Legal Div	3	3	500	
669th Eng	2	4	333	
Civ Adm Div	2	4	333	
Allied Sec	1	5	166	
Eco Div	0	4	000	

Xmas Program ...

(Continued from page 1)

2:30 p. m. and a special floor show at Club "48" in the evening.

Tomorrow will see another 2:30 p. m. matinee at Onkel Tom's Theater followed by a piano recital by Xenia von Grogh at the Harnack House Lecture Hall from 4 to 6 p. m. Tomorrow will also see the first Christmas Carol sing of OMGUS at Club "48" from 2 to 6 p. m. The Crown Prince Red Cross Club comes forth with a Candlelight Musical in The Cottage at 8:30 p. m. featuring violinist Jose Riemer and Emmy Warema, soprano. A "Surprise" half hour of entertainment will follow at 9:30 p. m.

Christmas Eve day gets underway with a combined movie matinee and special stage show entertainment at Onkel Tom's Theater. The American Little Theater of Berlin features a Christmas Eve party at Curtain House beginning at 8 p. m., half an hour after the scheduled Christmas Eve party at Club "48" which begins at 7:30 p. m. The ARC on Kronprinzen Allee has a special floor show in store between 9 and 10 p. m. followed by Dicken's Christmas Carol in The Cottage from 10 to 11 p. m. An ARC Clubmobile will make a tour of CQ's,

Team Shows Great Power In Two Wins

With their first two games two resounding victories, OMGUS' two-week young basketball team meets the cagemen of the 296th Military Police Battalion this afternoon at 2:30 p. m. in Gymnasium Number Two.

OMGUS' hoopmen have been entered in the 23rd Corps League competition and in their two contests last week — with the 253rd Engineers and French All-Stars — they served notice that they will be a tough team to beat. Other outfits in the Corps League include the 78th Infantry Division and the 3rd Infantry Regiment.

The first test of OMGUS strength came last Friday night as the team took a 61-26 win from the Engineer outfit. Although they had had only two practice sessions before taking to the hardwood floor, the OMGUS cagers played smart, heads-up ball to amass an early lead that was never threatened. Scott led the attack, scoring 12 points, while teammates Guappone, Voth and Watkins each added 10 more to amass two thirds of the winning total. Alhorne was top man for the losers with 10 markers.

The next afternoon, OMGUS returned to the basketball wars to meet the crack French All-Stars team and add a second victory to the record by a 59-32 score. Displaying a smooth-working offense and tight defense, the home five showed itself capable of playing in the best ETO basketball circles.

With Watkins, Gordon and Scott providing the offensive punch and Guappone and Kindrid backing them up, OMGUS turned on the pressure early in the game to pile up a substantial lead. When the two teams halted at the half, the All-Stars were on the short end of a 28-12 count.

The second half was the same story, with OMGUS forwards hitting the basket with unerring accuracy. Defensive play throughout the game also proved excellent and the fast French team found itself hitting near air-tight backcourt play for a good part of the contest.

Using the games as a testing ground for his strong team, coach Paul Kendall substituted freely and 11 OMGUS cagers saw action. All of the players showed mid-season form and despite the lack of coordinated practice, worked well together in fashioning a fast-breaking, tricky attack.

Anton of the All-Stars turned in an outstanding game for the losers, scoring 12 markers for the afternoon's top individual score, followed by teammate Barrais with 11 points.

Although Kendall, Special Service Athletic non-com, is guiding the OMGUS aggregation destinies with outstanding success, the team is still seeking a full-time coach. Any officer who is interested in leading the team in the 23rd Corps play should contact the Athletic Office in Onkel Toms Hutte, phone, 84-6913.

Chattanooga, Tenn (CNS) — A pedestrian, eating peanuts, dropped some on the sidewalk, slipped on them, accidentally kicked a cop while scidding, broke his leg when he fell. Now he's suing the cop for false arrest and the city for damages.

Special Troops Continue Play

Intra-OMGUS court play will be limited to the Special Troops League this week as the Regimental League takes a Yuletide holiday. Top games will be the Wednesday night meeting between the Navy five and the 669th Engineers and the Special Service-Allied Secretarial Division contest the same night.

WEDNESDAY:

7 p. m. 6th Engineers vs Navy
8 p. m. Civ Adm Div vs 131st Trk
9 p. m. Allied Sec vs Spec Serv

THURSDAY:

7 p. m. 822nd MP vs Economics
8 p. m. Leg Div vs Med Det
9 p. m. 669th Engineers vs Civ Adm Div

Duty Clerks and other working personnel to dispense coffee and doughnuts at 11 p. m.

In addition to special morning church services for all denominations, December 25 starts off early with a special breakfast at the Crown Prince Red Cross Club at 10 a. m. at which "coffee cakes" will be served. A combination movie matinee and special stage show will be presented at Onkel Tom's Theater at 2 p. m. followed by a Children's Christmas Party at the ARC Club at 3:30 p. m. Guests at the party will be 80 orphans to be brought by U. S. Naval personnel, 30 children of ARC employees and about 40 children guests of OMGUS enlisted personnel.

After the turkey-and-trimmin's Christmas dinners at all EM and EW mess halls, the Crown Prince Red Cross Club features a Christmas Carol Concert and Folk Dances by the "Young Madrigalists" from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. and the Harnack House opens its doors for a special Christmas party and dance slated to begin at 8 p. m.

The climax to the Yuletide season, which will see victorious and peaceful 1945 bow out of the Berlin picture, is the New Year's Eve Dance scheduled for the Harnack House on Dec. 31 and the New Year's Party with special floor show entertainment at the Club "48" from 8:30 to 1 o'clock in the morning of 1946.

I & E To Launch Expanded Curriculum Here



ONE OF the ways AFN Berlin will say "Merry Christmas" to its listeners will be the gala CHRISTMAS COMMAND PERFORMANCE slated to take over the ether for two solid hours starting 2 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Some of the performers in a cast that is an autograph hunter's dream are pictured in the AFN Berlin "greeting card". In addition to Bob Hope, the shows master of ceremonies, such stars as Bing Crosby, Dinah Shore, Harry James, Herbert Marshall, Jimmy Durante, the Pied Pipers, Eddie Jackson, Ginny Simms, Jerry Colonna, Johnny Mercer, Judy Garland, Ed "Archie" Gardner, Frances Langford, Kay Kyser, Cass Daley, Frank Sinatra and the Mitchell Boy's Choir will be broadcasting season's greetings Berlinwards.

Grooper Reporter Spends Night With Comrades in Soviet Zone

by Harold Kempner

Three husky Russians took me for a "ride" deep into the Russian zone of occupation, feted and toasted in a "tovarisch" style and I returned sporting a fur-lined Cossack hat, a coveted Battle of Berlin medal, minus overseas bars and cap.

I met my hosts on Kurfuerstendamm Sunday noon and soon we decided to celebrate the rest of the evening together. I invited them to my quarters but they convinced me that their supply of vodka could not be matched. We piled into their car, a pre-world war I model, and headed on the long journey.

Sasha, the driver, between the frequent tooting of the horn, was warming up on the subject of "rear echelon dolls" who had all the snappy jobs in Berlin while he, a private from way back, was rotting somewhere in Germany doing menial chores. His griping was as common as that of any American GI.

I learned that my comrades were being redeployed to "Mother Russia" after five years of army service which took them all the way from the Caucasus to the gates of Berlin. They were attached to a small unit, equivalent to our MG detachment, 40 miles east of Berlin and this was one of their periodical "unofficial" trips to the city.

A Russian guard stopped the car. We were entering the Russian zone of occupation. Sasha gave him a long spiel about a life-long American friend he was taking along to entertain. The guard softened up and let us through.

After an hour's drive we got into a typical German village. The Russians were billeted in a two-story house, roomy and clean. They woke up their cook who had his day off and he set the table with an assortment of cold cuts, caviar and herring. Half a dozen bottles of vodka appeared from nowhere and the feast lasted till midnight. Our conversation ranged from the

relative merits of vodka and scotch to the length of Allied occupation of Germany. It finally turned into a typical GI session when the cook took his profession seriously and hanged up on him.

The Russian soldiers beated the cook just like we do with our mess sergeants. He has the same trouble as his prototype in our army. It seems that there are as many nationalities in the Russian army as tastes and it is impossible to satisfy them all. "Let them rave," said the cook, "and I'll go right ahead mixing dehydrated vegetables — borscht — and if they don't like it they can eat someplace else."

I discovered that KP was the most hated detail in the Russian army, but now they had no complaints to make on that score, as Germans — just as in our army — were doing the work.

Like the American GI, the Russian soldier enjoys singing but doesn't favor those mournful tunes like Volga Boatman. My hosts entertained me with a new brand of Soviet jive. It consisted of Russian words fitted to American tunes like "Old Man River," and "Bicycle Built for Two." They went through a whole repertoire of army battle songs and I reciprocated with "Ochi Chernia" and a couplet from Eugene Onegin.

It was getting light outside, the bottles were empty and we were hoarse and dead-tired. We piled back into the car and they drove me all the way to Onkel Tom's. I ripped off my ribbons and presented them to my friends as a memento. They hastened to reciprocate with a fur-lined hat and a Battle of Berlin medal. I sealed our friendship with my overseas cap.

Reaching The Grooper office I learned that five American correspondents left the same morning on an official tour in the Russian zone of occupation. A similar number of Russian correspondents were expected to enter the American zone in the near future.

Additional Copies Of Today's Grooper

Additional copies of this week's GROOPER, with the Holiday Supplement, may be obtained at the Editorial office of the newspaper at 25 Irmgard Strasse.

The GROOPER will suspend publication for the holiday weekend, no issue coming out on December 29. However, the regular paper will again be published on January 5.

ARC Schedule

SUNDAY: Club Orchestra, 1:30—2:30 p. m.; Bock's Band, 2:30—5 p. m.; Jose Riemer, 7:30—8:30 p. m.; Jose Riemer and Emmy Warena, 8:30—9:30 p. m.

MON: Club Orchestra, 10—11:30 a. m. and 5:30—10:15 p. m.; Master of the Ivories, 2:30—4:30 p. m.; Floor Show, 9 p. m.; Dicken's Christmas Carol, 10 p. m.

TUES: Club Orchestra, 10—11:30 a. m.; 1:30—3:30 p. m. and 5:30—7:30 p. m.; Childrens Party, 3:30 p. m.; Madrigalists and Carol Concert, 7:30 p. m.; Fish Hut Orchestra, 8:30—10:15 p. m.

WED: Club Orchestra, 10—11:30 a. m.; Master of the Ivories, 2:30—4:30 p. m.; Bridge Club, 7:30 p. m.; Club Orchestra, 7—9 p. m.; Jose Riemer, 9 p. m.

THURS: Club Orchestra, 10—11:30 a. m.; Bock's Orchestra, 2:30—5 p. m.; Dancing Lessons, 8 p. m.; Fish Hut Band, 8—10:15 p. m.

FRI: Club Orchestra, 10—11:30 a. m. and 7—9 p. m.; Master of the Ivories, 2:30—4:30 p. m.; Photo Lesson, 8 p. m.; Jose Riemer, 9—10 p. m.; December Birthday Party, 9:30 p. m.

OMGUS Personnel To See "Top Pic"

"One of the finest documentary films to come out of the war" will be shown to OMGUS personnel on the 26th and 27th of December when "The True Glory" is presented at Onkel Tom's Kino at 10:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. both days.

New Courses Open At Universities

OMGUS' I & E Information office this week released a list of courses open to personnel wishing to study in England and Germany.

The Warton Technical School offers Auto Mechanics, Aircraft Mechanics, Carpentry, Cabinet Making, Plumbing, Painting and Decorating, Drafting, Surveying, Electrical Trades, Machine Shop, Welding and Heavy Construction Equipment. At the British College of the Rhine in Gottingen, Germany, studies in Arts and Craft and Mechanical Engineering Theory are open.

All those interested in attending the schools should contact the I & E Office at 25 Irmgard Strasse.

Pueblo, Cal (CNS) — A local resident, aged 6, stole a car but found he was too short to drive it. So he got an accomplice to steer the auto while he squatted on the floor to operate the clutch and brake pedals. Police picked up the pair of desperados half a mile out of town.

On-Duty Study Is Big Change In New Setup

The American University of Berlin, OMGUS I & E Unit school, will launch a greatly expanded curriculum on January 14th, when it offers its first large-scale on-duty study courses.

The new plan, as approved by Lieutenant General Lucius D. Clay, will free all but "top essential" officers, enlisted personnel and civilians for three hours during the working day each week if they enroll for daytime courses in any of the school's six departments.

In addition to the innovation of on-duty studies, a long list of night school courses will still be offered. All together, the subjects will total approximately 60 with a staff of over 25 men and women teaching them. Full details on courses, teachers, hours and prospectus will be given in a school catalogue which will be distributed at the beginning of next year.

Outstanding studies for which OMGUS personnel can sign up include Russian, German, French, Greek, Shakespeare and American Literature — taught by members of the Language and Literature Department; and Psychology of Adjustment and Introduction to Logic and the Scientific Method in the Philosophy and Psychology Department. The Science courses include Chemistry, Physics, Plastics and Mathematics; Commercial Art and Painting will be offered by the Department and Fundamentals of Typewriting is a basic study in the Commerce and Business Department.

The expanded university, with its faculty of top-ranking teachers and well-rounded curriculum has already been termed "the finest unit school in the ETO" by Paris I & E officials. The new plan, with its three-hour daytime study allotment is the proposal of I & E Officer, Lieutenant Robert E. Fauss. It was his detailed program which gained final acceptance by OMGUS head, Lt. General Clay.

Students attending classes will be put on "Temporary Duty" for the three hours each week and will be expected to attend all classes. Those completing the courses successfully will get school credit, high school or college depending upon the level of the studies.

All OMGUS personnel wishing to sign up for the new courses or to gain more detailed information about the program should contact the I & E Registration office at 25 Irmgard Strasse, phone 84-6775.

Photo Credits...

Page 1: General Clay, Gerard; Santa Claus, Fund
Page 2: Grooper Greeting, Mathae;
Page 3: Football Shot, International News Photo

HOLIDAY SUPPLEMENT

Page 1: Mathae, Reynolds (BPC) and Pons (BPC), Fagan and Bowler (669th Engineers)
Page 2: Hoescht and Onkel Tom Subway Station, Jones and Fagan (669th Engineers); Others, Mathae
Page 3: ARC, Fund; Others, Mathae
Page 4: WACS at Nice, French Press Service; Others, Mathae
Page 5: I & E School, Nortmann; Club 48, Basketball and WACS, Fund; Others, Mathae
Pages 6, 7, 8: Army News Service
Page 9: Mathae
Page 10: Mathae
Page 11: London, Schettling; Switzerland, Grant; Others, Mathae
Page 12: Control Council and Russian Parade, Fair (BPC); American Flag Raising, BPC; French Half-Track, French PRS; Four Heads, Fair (BPC); American-Russian, Mathae

All Art Work: Schettling