

WILEY PATROL

**A memorable retrospective of 70 years
of the Wiley Club (1952-2022)
and 40 years of German-American
coexistence in Neu-Ulm (1951-1991)**



by Eberhard A. Merk

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CAUTION LARGE BUILDING SITE

The beginnings of the Neu-Ulm US-Garrison and the birth of the Wiley Club

An international effort had defeated National Socialism, but the German question remained the key problem in Allied negotiations on European post-war order. The lines of conflict had long been defined, as, since the turn of the year 1949/50, the mood and expectations of the U.S. political and military leadership darkened increasingly. Relations with the Soviet Union, already strained since the end of the war, threatened to freeze completely. The *cold* Berlin-Blockade of 1948/49 (airlift) was followed by a *hot* proxy war in Korea. The Soviet Union reacted to the hegemonic power and economic ambitions as well as the containment of the USA with increasing expansionism and accelerated nuclear armament. It was not only in the two German successor states that people feared a third world war, especially against the background of the recent experience of the Allies' area bombing. In order to prevent a possible attack on the young Federal Republic of Germany and at the same time to psychologically cement the country's ties to the West, the French, British and Americans announced an increased military presence in their respective occupation zones. To this aim the existing garrisons were to be expanded and new ones built at Germany's expense.

The twin city of Ulm/Neu-Ulm, located in the American zone, virtually forced itself upon the planners in the newly established duty office Blank, who were tasked with searching for suitable locations¹.

With its existing military properties and the areas available for expansion, the smaller Neu-Ulm especially provided ideal conditions for the settlement of a large American garrison. Following the clearance of the (Jewish) Displaced Persons Camp in the former Ludendorff barracks on the Memminger Straße by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) of the United Nations (UN) in March 1951, rumors were circulating in

the city about the development of the adjoining parade ground to the south as well as other sites. Preliminary work actually started at the end of September 1951.² Bulldozers leveled the fields and destroyed hectares of the best humus. Where from 1946 to 1948 the Jewish underground militia *Hagana* had prepared mostly Polish Jews for the Israeli settlement program, a sign with the inscription "Caution large Building Site" referred to the projected construction of the new barracks under the name *New Ludendorff*. The construction of more than 50 new buildings to the North and predominantly to the South of today's Europastrasse was planned. In what is now Vorfeld, there were plans for a spacious housing development (*Vorfeld Family Housing Area*).

For its garrison, the U.S. Army insisted on an independent water supply with pumping station in the Illerholz (Illeraue).³ A new type of hot water plant supplied the GIs (Government Issue) and their dependents with heat. Transformers converted the electricity to 110 volts, which was also standard in the United States, and fed it into the barracks' shielded low-voltage grid. Among other facilities, the project also included a church, a movie theater (later the Dietrich Theater), sports fields, parking facilities, a large dining hall, shopping facilities (*Post Exchange, PX*), a recreation and leisure complex, a snack bar, and several club buildings. In October 1951, the town of Neu-Ulm had a population of just over 16.000 and in the medium term reckoned with up to 7.000 soldiers and several

² On the Jewish DP camp in the Ludendorff Barracks in Neu-Ulm, see J. G. TOBIAS, J. G. TOBIAS, „Jüdische Displaced Persons im Bezirk Bayerisch-Schwaben“, in: P. Fassl (Hg.), *Nach der Shoa. Jüdische Displaced Persons in Bayerisch-Schwaben 1945-1951*, Konstanz 2011, S. 11-82, S. 44ff.; E. A. MERK, „Ludwigsfeld im Wandel zwischen 1918 und 2016“, in: Stadt Neu-Ulm (Hg.), *Ludwigsfeld im Wandel. Von den Anfängen bis heute. Anlässlich des 150. Jubiläums der Namensverleihung durch den bayerischen König Ludwig II. im Jahr 1865*, Neu-Ulm 2017, p. 51-152, p. 94f.

³ In 1996, this groundwater plant was connected to the Neu-Ulm Illeraue well, which had only been put into operation in 1965, thoroughly renovated and now supplies the entire Neu-Ulm urban area with drinking water, with the exception of Ludwigsfeld (without Wiley). Cf. A. HAUG u. U. SCHMIDT, *Teichel, Pumpen, Brunnen. Ulmer Trinkwasser im Spiegel von sechs Jahrhunderten [Ulm drinking water in the mirror of six centuries]*, published by Stadtwerke Ulm/Neu-Ulm GmbH on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the central drinking water supply in Ulm in 1998, Ulm 1998, p. 259ff.

¹ For the duty office (Amt) Blank, see, amongst others. <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/DE/Content/Virtuelle-Ausstellungen/Auf-Dem-Weg-Zum-Verteidigungsministerium-Die-Zentrale-Fur-Heimatdienst-Und-Das-Amt-Blank-1950-1955/auf-dem-weg-zum-verteidigungsministerium-die-zentrale-fur-heimatdienst-und-das-amt-blank-1950-1955.html> (April, 9.2022).

hundred dependents in Ulm and Neu-Ulm.⁴ The majority of them would move into the new barracks and accommodation south of the Neu-Ulm ring road and along the Memminger Strasse. Gradually, the extent of this military settlement, which according to typical American standards was quite spacious, became apparent. From a German point of view, the area looked more like a garden city than a barracks. Consequently, the name “Little America” soon became established.⁵ It is also likely that, apart from the interests of the American military, the possibility of a later civilian use played a certain role in the planning by the architects and engineers of the Munich Finance Building Office. The Americans left nothing to chance and carefully prepared for the arrival of the garrison. As early as July 1, 1951, an American officer, accompanied by two enlisted ranks, inspected the twin city and established the local Augsburg Military Post subpost.⁶ A short time later, the military newspaper, *The Stars and Stripes* (S&S) published a special announcement from 7 July “*Lt. Col. William H. Seitz, Jr. [...] has been named commander of the new subpost to be activated at Neu-Ulm [...] At the same time, it was announced that five kasernes in Ulm and Neu-Ulm will be renovated.*”⁷

As early as 18. October a demonstration exercise of the US professional fire department, which had been stationed in Neu-Ulm “*for quite some time*”, was held in the former Ludendorff barracks under its commander Hans Feyrer from Senden. The fire department was well equipped and

⁴ The American garrison of the twin city was designed for a total of 8,000 to 9,000 soldiers. Cf. also T. RANKER, *Auf dem Weg zur internationalen Stadt. Migration to Ulm since 1945*, Ulm 2018, p. 273.

⁵ The native of Neu-Ulm and “*hobby historian*” Joachim Lenk chose for his largely uncritical and unsorted picture chronicle of the US-American garrison in Ulm and Neu-Ulm consequently the title *Little America left and right of the Danube*. J. LENK, *Klein-Amerika links und rechts der Donau. US-Soldaten in Schwaben von 1950 bis heute*, Münsingen 2017, p. 8.

⁶ On the history of the Augsburg US-Garrison and the German-American coexistence in the Bavarian-Swabian capital, see the essays in question in P. GASSERT u.a. (Hgg.), *Augsburg und Amerika. Aneignungen und globale Verflechtungen einer Stadt* (= Documenta Augustana Band 24), Augsburg 2013.

⁷ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from July 8, 1951.

consisted exclusively of German personnel.⁸ Shortly afterwards, the first American units of the 110th *Infantry Regiment* moved into the Neu-Ulm garrison, or rather the former Wehrmacht barracks in the Reuttier (Reinhardt Barracks) and Memminger Strasse (Ludendorff Barracks). An old German soldier is said to have commented on the entry of a preliminary detachment into Ulm/ Neu-Ulm on November 14 as follows: “*If a thing is worth doing, it’s worth doing it well, that’s the only way to impress Ivan. If it weren’t for the Yankees, he would have hit us with one blow.*”⁹ In contrast, Kurt Fried (1906-1981), a local councilor in Ulm, cultural editor and co-editor of the *Schwäbische Donau-Zeitung*, expressed his (justified) concern in a commentary about expected “*unpleasantness*” of all kinds.¹⁰

On Wednesday **5. December 1951** the time had finally come. After several preliminary detachments and troop units had already moved into the Ulm barracks in the days before or had been moved on further to Leipheim and Augsburg, about 600 soldiers of a battalion of the 110th *Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division* arrived at Neu-Ulm station “*at 4:30 p.m. sharp*” in 16 express-train-coaches from Mannheim.¹¹ The Neu-Ulm garrison was welcomed by the musicians of the neighboring (Augsburg) 43rd *Infantry Division*. The following day, the commander of the 28th *Infantry Division*, 2-star General Daniel Strickler (1897-1992), personally inspected the accommodation of his troops in the (old) Ludendorff Barracks. Within a few years and in accordance with the Atlantic Charter and the Truman Doctrine, the Americans had gone from conquerors, liberators and occupiers to protectors and guarantors of freedom, peace and prosperity - at least from the point of view of the American leadership and an ever-growing part of German politics and

⁸ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from October 22, 1951

⁹ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from November 16, 1951.

¹⁰ *Schwäbische Donauzeitung* from November 16, 1951.

¹¹ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from December 7, 1951. Compare to *Schwäbische Donauzeitung* from December 06, 1951.

population.¹² After the currency reform (1948), the founding of the FRG (1949) and the implementation of the Marshall Plan (ERP), which was accompanied by a large-scale propaganda offensive, the Germans again joined in and played the same tune.

In the eyes of the USA Western Europe could only be saved from socialist temptation by increasing German production. A high volume of (foreign) trade would accelerate both the Germans' integration into the West and the unification of Europe. The economy of the Federal Republic was therefore willingly granted market advantages in the form of a massively undervalued D-mark, especially in comparison with the development of prices and wages outside Germany. Since 1952 at the latest, the (West) German economy had been generating continuously increasing export surpluses. The still unsolved problems of denazification and democratization of the (West) German state, which had only limited sovereignty, were increasingly left to the questionable moral competence of the Germans themselves, or were tacitly accepted. The new enemies were in Moscow and Beijing.

As is well known, the implementation of the ban on fraternization initially imposed after the end of the war was almost impossible. Against the background of the mass relocation of American soldiers to Western European garrisons, however, the U.S. military now expressly began to cultivate a policy of *hands across the sea*, also, and especially, with the Germans. German women had an excellent reputation among the occupying soldiers anyway. In October 1952, the Neu-Ulm city administration received a letter of petition from the heart of California addressed to Mayor Tassillo Grimmeiß (1910-1961). A young, single man from Fresno asked Grimmeiß for the introduction of a Neu-Ulmer woman willing to marry.¹³ Above all, the

German-blooded female army retinue, the ladies and damsels of the fiscally non-recordable trade, the many Veronikas and freebooters of love, pretty girls, *frolleins*, girlfriends, *loose girls* and light girls, sidewalk swallows, Negro darlings, whores, U.S. brides in training and Amihuren - as



The Mayor, Tassilo Grimmeiß
(StadtA Neu-Ulm)

the prostitutes and chance acquaintances were sometimes called in contemporary jargon - were only too happy to be eyed-up by the GIs. After all, there was a distinct shortage of men in post-war Germany. In Neu-Ulm, too, there was a clear surplus of women throughout the 1950s, especially among those born before 1928. In any case, the G ward (G for sexually transmitted disease) of the municipal hospital at the Michelsberg in Ulm could not complain about having too little work. Along with the soldiers, masses of cigarettes, (bean) coffee, whiskey, chocolate and the U.S. dollar, representing the new world financial order, entered the lives of the people of Ulm and Neu-Ulm. CARE packages, put together by concerned relatives and Christian charities, crossed the Atlantic and here



Gate entrance to the New Ludendorff/Wiley Barracks beginning of the 1950's (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

¹² See U. MENZEL, *Die Ordnung der Welt. Imperium oder Hegemonie in der Hierarchie der Staatenwelt*, Berlin 2015, p. 909ff. An overview of the respective foreign stereotypes in the German-American relationship since 1945 is provided by R. KREIS u. J. LOGEMANN, "Mixed Views'. Konstruktion und Kanäle deutsch-amerikanischer Wahrnehmungen seit dem Zweiten Weltkrieg", in: *Vierteljahreshfte für Zeitgeschichte* 68,4 (2020), S. 642-656.

¹³ See the *Neu Ulmer Zeitung* from October 24, 1952

and there eased the oppressive burden of everyday life after the war. And last but not least, many inhabitants had profited from the flourishing black market with American products, among others



Aerial photo of the Wiley Barracks from the West (StANU, Mangold Collection)

in the Offenhausen border or alien camp¹⁴ The stationing of hundreds and thousands of young men, however, also brought with it fierce battles, regular alcoholic excesses and a sometimes-frightening degree of sexualized violence - despite the rigorous intervention of the American military police, even on the slightest pretense.

The occupying power, for its part, endeavored to let the Germans share in the American magnanimity and helpfulness in their daily coexistence. The Mayor, Mr. Grimmeiß never tired of pointing out what a blessing the presence of the Americans was for employment and the reconstruction of the urban infrastructure. The garrison also soon became an

¹⁴ To the Offenhausener alien camp see E. A. MERK, "Die Ortsgeschichte von Offenhausen zwischen 1309 und 2019", in: Stadtarchiv Neu-Ulm (Hg.), *Offenhausen 1309-2019*, Neu-Ulm 2020, p. 15-303, p. 275ff.

indispensable employer. The Americans recruited their civilian personnel almost exclusively from the Ulm/Neu-Ulm labor market. Many Germans found comparatively well-paid employment

with the individual departments of the site administration.

The Americans were also welcome guests as tenants, consumers and foreign exchange earners, as long as they were not barred from entering, as for example at the restaurant "Zum letzten Heller" on the upper Memminger Straße (Allgäuer Ring), by a sign reading "Off Limits".

In the city itself, which, together with its big sister on the Württemberg riverbank, had suffered considerably from the Allied air strikes of the Second

World War and had one of the highest levels of destruction in all of Bavaria, there was a veritable building frenzy. However, the immense demand for housing could not be met for the time being. The administration and the construction industry faced unprecedented challenges. And in spite of the occasional show of rolling up one's sleeves and the enormous construction efforts, especially by the many displaced persons and refugees, large parts of the population were unable or unwilling to overcome the resignation of the years of misery. In January 1952, for example, a suicidal man asked the American soldiers stationed in the former Ludendorff barracks for a pistol so that he could shoot himself. The German police, who were called in, sympathetically released the man who was tired of life.

At the same time, the bare brickwork of the American barracks buildings south of the old Ludendorff Barracks was being completed by German contractors.¹⁵ A tragic accident occurred on March 10, 1952, when a German foreman was killed while stripping formwork from concrete columns at New Ludendorff. Troop housing was to be ready for occupancy by the summer of 1952. The Americans slogged away and the Germans marveled, especially at the speed of construction progress and the sober pragmatism of the American (Army) administration. Quite a few observers felt reminded of the construction of the so-called Westwall in the 1930s or the transatlantic wall in the early 1940s. *“If you go in the direction of Ludwigsfeld shortly beyond the [old] Ludendorff barracks, construction site follows construction site.”*¹⁶ “ Gradually, more and more soldiers, with and without dependents, moved into Neu-Ulm and filled the entire barracks area south of Ringstrasse with life.

In spite of all curiosity, admiration and recognition, even then (and to this day) occasionally the slogan was heard: *Ami go home!* At the end of June 1952 anonymous “ *graffiti artists* “ defaced the river bank fortification of the “Schwall” with a message directed against the PEST RIDGAY [sic].¹⁷ This referred to the American 4-star general Matthew



Vorfeld, entrance from the Memminger Straße into the Steubenstraße with PX Shopping Center (StadtA Neu-Ulm, Mangold Collection)

¹⁵ The high rise buildings were constructed by the renowned building company Wolfner & Goebel (at that time still Esslingen).

¹⁶ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from January 1, 1952

¹⁷ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from June 28, 1952



Water tower in the Wiley, construction shell (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

B. Ridgeway (1895-1993), appointed 1952 Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) at the end of May. In Paris and Rome, the Communists had previously organized violent protests against the supposed *général microbien*. Socialist propaganda (falsely) accused Ridgeway of using biological weapons in the Korean War. In the spring of 1951, American intelligence had received alarming reports of an outbreak of a highly contagious infectious disease behind the North Korean and Chinese fronts, respectively. American agents investigated the case and concluded that it was not plague, as initially feared, but a particularly severe form of pox or smallpox. The Communists learned of the mission and eventually blamed the U.S. for the outbreak. The many peace movements in Germany



Vorfeld housing along the Ringstraße (StANU, Mangold Collection)

and Europe were not happy with the new NATO commander anyway.

In addition, the occupying forces did not in any way refrain from showing off their strength and determination from time to time. On the occasion of a parade in March 1952 on the Gänsweise in Ulm, the Americans cut a somewhat awkward figure from the German point of view. However, after a large parade on May 17, 1952, the so-called *Armed Forces Day* in Ulm's Olgastrasse, which was still lined with numerous ruins, and on an open day on September 21 of the same year in the *Vorfeld Family Housing Area*, the inhabitants of Neu-Ulm were able to see for themselves the weapons drill and the material superiority of their occupiers. This marked the beginning of a 40-year era for the young Bavarian town on the Danube. The 38-meter-high water tower erected at the end of June 1952 on the *New Ludendorff* barracks grounds was even considered by some to be the town's new landmark. "*With its height surpassing all other comparable buildings of Neu-Ulm and its beauty, the new water tower is destined to become one of the most remarkable landmarks in the*

cityscape of Neu-Ulm."¹⁸

Finally, on **November 20, 1952**, the ceremonial inauguration of the Special Services Club, soon also referred to as *The Terrace Recreation Center* or simply as *The Terrace*, which had been built at a total cost of around DM 1.3 million, took place. The neighboring EM Club was also officially opened. The abbreviation EM (for *enlisted men* or *enlisted members*) was used in the American military to refer to all *enlisted ranks* or *grades* (as well as non-commissioned officers). The EM club was accordingly intended for this group of persons, which made up the majority of the garrison. The term was derived from enlistment, i.e., the voluntary enlistment or conscription of the recruiting system of the U.S. Army administrations under the Selective Service System. A little later, separate clubs were established for the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). The NCOs, of course, continued to have access to the EM clubs. As is well known, the officers of the Neu-Ulm garrison socialized in the former officers' casino of the Wehrmacht in Paulstraße (Donau casino).

18 *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from June 28, 1952

CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST CONSCIOUSNESS PROGRAM

The Weekly Diary

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST
Continues clear & warm

VOLUME 1 - NO. 15

ULM / NEU-ULM / LEIPHEIM

APRIL 18 - 1952

LEIPHEIM LANTERN HOLDS ELABORATE EASTER FESTIVITIES

Decorative Easter festivities at the Leipheim Lantern began at 10:00 hours with an Easter breakfast for Churchgoers. An added delightful touch to the morning's activities was noted in the poetry, skits, sketches and novelty head wreaths worn by all in attendance. Spring music floated over the scene from a PA system. Early afternoon saw the arrival of forty orphans for a supervised Kinder Party that we think, without a doubt, was the most successful part of our day. For the number of orphaned ones who wished to sponsor an orphaned child, there might have been a long list. Pfc. Howard Tinsman of Co. C 824th Tank Battalion, is to be commended for the manner in which he was able to explain the program to the children and lead them in a song. Part of well-known German songs with the assistance of the children and singing machine in the person of Pfc. Gene Lewis of B Company, 824th Tank Battalion, Pfc. Tinsman went on to explain the trials and tribulations of a few of the children in "the past." A German waltz song was sung by Recreation Director Bernadine McCadden, who, while all joined in the singing of Easter Parades. After refreshments of past, the scene and music in starting the first was conducted out on the lawn. We can safely say every Enlisted man attending had a lump in his throat at the sight of the little charges holding the lit, hugging a sweetest bunny.

Later in the afternoon, with Club Director Benny Butterfield backstage arranging the procedure, and giving well-coordinated signals, Miss McCadden began the commentary, which brought on a refreshing and interesting Hat Show from behind a screen. Pictures from and literary still-life scenes, The League was divided in capacity with Enlisted men and the wives of NCOs and Officers of the Leiphheim and Dillenburg Sub-Poles who came in answer to special invitation. We indicated from several of our guests that this was the nicest glimpse they had seen of the spirit of Spring and that the annual Fifth Avenue parade didn't have a thing on it. Our charming models were Mrs. F. J. Kuhn, wife of the Commanding Officer of the 824th Engineer Battalion, Mrs. H. G. McCarver and Mrs. Carroll D. Strider, also wife of the 5th Engineer Battalion Officer, Miss Elizabeth Benton and Miss Butterfield of the Club Staff. Easter Sunday morning offered a treat by the Club Council, a spontaneous talent show, a carrot-eating contest and refreshments.

GERMAN GLASSES TO START SOON

All men interested in learning to speak German should contact Sgt. McCaughey 824th Tr. Bn. 31 & 2 mail box or Mr. Sommergill, education advisor, Bldg 6, as soon as possible for the first evening classes. Requirements for attending these classes are a minimum date of at least December 1950 and perfect attendance to complete the course.

LETTERS FROM HOME

The "Weekly Diary" is interested in doing a weekly feature concerning humorous, exciting and interesting news of happenings at home. We feel certain you receive news from home too good to keep to yourself and want the world to know about. For example, a birth, death or birthday announcement or wedding. Something not too personal but sure to cause good reading. So get busy gathering your news from old and recent letters and inform us in your company reporter or mail in the "Weekly Diary", APO 111 to U. S. ARMY.

SOGGER PLAYERS WANTED

All those interested in joining the Soccer team at Leipheim this Fall please notify, Pfc. Harry B. Caswell, Bldg 16, Rm. 58, or Pfc. Howard Tinsman, Bldg 6, Rm. 43. The team hopes to play other Soccer teams in the very near future.



Featured above is the entrance to the newly opened Military Police Station in Ulm. Standing at attention are Private First Class John B. Lawrence (left) and Corporal Gerald T. Wilcox (right).

USAFI OFFERS SEVERAL COURSES IN MECHANICS

Do you like to tinker with machinery, automobiles, or household appliances? If so you probably have the makings of a mechanic. A mechanic is the "Master Fixit" of industry—the troubleshooter who is called in when things won't work. Our is a world that depends on machinery, and as long as there are machines there must be people to service and repair them. Before the last war there were over a million mechanics in the United States, and there is an indication that a skilled mechanic will never be hard put to earn a decent living.

One of the most popular of USAFI Correspondence Courses or series of courses is that in the field of **Auto Mechanics**. Civilian auto mechanics are valued in top ratings from the general repair shop to the specialist, but generally speaking there are seven main types of work the auto mechanic should know how to do. They are: (1) Repairing motors, transmissions, and rear axle; (2) Repairing all kinds of brakes (mechanical, hydraulic, and air); (3) Repairing ignition systems and other electrical units; (4) Servicing various mechanical units, such as repairing speedometers, adjusting carburetors, adjusting steering wheel connections etc.; (5) Straightening axles by heating and bending; repairing headers and bodies by hammering, welding, etc.; (6) Doing odd jobs such as strapping the oil in the crank case, greasing the chassis, changing tires, replenishing engine oil; and (7) Polishing and slipping cars, repairing damaged upholstery, and replacing broken glass.

Doing all of the above would be the job of an all 'round mechanic who either owns or works in a small shop; in larger shops the work is generally divided between workers, whose duties may be motor mechanics, brake mechanics, electricians, battery service men, radiator men, blacksmiths, upholsterers, vulcanizers, and other technicians.

There is no doubt that the mechanic who knows a good deal about the whole trade is a much more valuable worker and one who will get the chance to be a Shop Foreman, or floor mechanic, in other words will qualify for the better job.

USAFI offers a series of five separate self-teaching courses covering the motor, the fuel, cooling, and lubrication systems, the power flow, automotive electricity, and chassis units. These may be taken in any order the student desires. Where can you get a better bargain

FIVE EM PASS GED TEST

Five members of the 824th Tank Battalion received notification that they have successfully passed the High School level General Education and Development Test which they recently completed. The men are Sergeant Archie Bassett of Company "C", Sergeant Donald Younker, Corporal Richard Brinkman and Cecil Wilson, and Private First Class Paul Jensen of Headquarters and Service Company.

The test consisted of five parts, English, History, Science, Literature and Mathematics and it based more on the general knowledge and the ability to interpret rather than on the more minute and technical details. As the result of passing the test, the above named men are now eligible for a high school diploma from the school they first attended or an equivalency diploma from the Department of Education in the state in which they reside.

Any individual desiring information pertaining to the GED test are encouraged to contact Sergeant McCaughey, 824th Tank Battalion, Troop Information and Education NCO, in Room 95 of Building 12.

POST COMMANDER WELL PLEASSED WITH LANDSCAPING

Lieutenant Colonel James C. Kennedy, Leipheim Sub Post Commander, announced this past week that he is well pleased and thankful to the various companies for their cooperation in landscaping their own areas. "It is their home and should be fixed like home," he went on further to state. Also "It will take the full cooperation of all personnel and units on post to make the present program successful."

According to the Colonel, "The Post Engineers will take care of the post area such as ball fields, etc., but it is the responsibility of each company to take care of their own area."

Grass seed is available at Post Quartermaster and can be easily obtained through normal supply channels.

For 100 Dollars at today's inflated prices? If you are interested in automotive mechanics, either for a sideline job or to help you in your military specialty, contact your military advisor in Bldg. 6.

New Military Police Office Opens in Ulm

Ulm's new American Military Police Station on Franzosstrasse, in Ulm was officially opened this week with the cutting of the ribbon across the door by Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Sells, Ulm Sub Post Commander. The building which at one time was a military jail for the German Army has been completely remodeled and rededicated and will replace the one torn at the German Police Station, which was completely occupied by the MP's.

In addition to the increased work for the division of Subsequent American Military personnel, the building also houses the Post's Marshall's Office, a law way radio station, the entire local Military Police Detachment, and a Criminal Investigation Detachment.

The building will be open twenty-four hours daily and according to Sergeant First Class John McDonough, Post's Sergeant, there will be a German Interpreter on duty around the clock.

All inquiries, assistance, etc. that was formerly requested at the old MP Office will now be taken in the new. Also individuals desiring to register firearms and vehicles may do so at the new building during normal office hours.

Included in the many military and civilian dignitaries at the opening ceremony was Lieutenant Colonel William Damm, Post's Marshall of Augsburg Military Post, Colonel Robert Pender, Post's Marshall of Dillenburg, United States Resident Officer of Ulm, and Mr. Franz, Local Mayor of Ulm.

BATTALION ALL STARS BEATEN AGAIN BY FGM

The 824th Tank Battalion All Star Basketball team were defeated 10 to 24 last Saturday at Mollathaus, France, by a fast breaking FGM Basketball outfit. This game quit-let both teams last month also by one point 38 to 38.

Behind most of the game, the "high scorers" all stars had nothing to do but lacked the final drive necessary to overcome the French team who stopped them continuously with their new defense.

The FGM club, regarded as one of the best basketball teams in France, is currently engaged in a sudden death championship playoff game in their basketball tournament in France.

The high scorers for the team were Ferris with 19 and Struble 18 points respectively.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR DOG KENNELS

Dependent Personnel in the Leipheim area desiring dog kennel land build their own, according to Lieutenant Colonel James C. Kennedy, Leipheim Sub Post Commander, revealed this past week.

The Colonel went on further to state that land would be provided but as for material individuals would have to furnish their own. Sergeant First Class Chamberlain of the Sub Post Engineers will give all the assistance possible in building the kennels, such as design, method of construction, etc.

Persons desiring further information are advised to contact the Sub Post Engineers Office.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY SING

To all men or groups of men who like to sing!

USAFI Special Services is sponsoring all All-Army Soldier Singing Contests. The finals, which will be judged between 1 and 10 May. Tryouts on a Sub-Post level will be held on 21 April, Sunday, from two till five in the afternoon. Come over to the service club, if you're a single voice, a quartet or more. You may wind up on APR. or with an attractive TDY contract. It's worth a try! Let it see how you turn out after two weeks in the Home Room of the Leipheim Lantern on Sunday afternoon.

Notice

Personnel are reminded that they are prohibited from swimming and participating in various other sports in certain areas. Information will be released to the rear office regarding the location of areas to be used by allied personnel.

LAUGHS ARE PLENTIFUL AT LIBRARY

Have you discovered the fun and enjoyment of your Library? About 200 books are waiting for your few minutes of leisure. Who can lead the life of the well-known character in the comic strips, Oodles, whose motto is "manana. He lives in the land where the leading industries are machine and science and agriculture. There is also a hilarious new collection of Henny's Henny's who appears weekly in "The Saturday Evening Post" as the mail who is the distasteful partner of the house. How to be Deliberately happy is a satire which pokes personal adjustment, peace, integration and success, all for the purpose of the latest guide to the perfect life. A must for the bridge lovers is "Who Deals This Mess" by H. Y. Webster. Not to be outdone is "Book" a guidebook to your friends, your enemies, your colleagues and yourself.

Morning passed by John Mason Brown in an amazing book of children and parents. There is the trial of taking seven active children to the rodeo, where you do not only watch the bucking broncos but are surrounded by them. The Doctor Has a Family by Exotic Barber and Shirley's Father of the Bride are not to be missed as well as Cecilia Slocum's That's Me All O'erg. Miss Edinger's home has that cozy quality which shows its depth and genuineness in her ability to laugh at herself.

Library Hours: 1000 - 1200, Daily.

NAME YOUR CLUB

Here's a chance to win a three-day pass to Germany, plus Ten Dollars to help cover expenses, and the satisfaction of having named the Ulm Army Service Club. All you have to do is fill out the blank below and deposit it in the "Name Your Club" box at the Information Desk of the Ulm Army Service Club prior to next Friday April 23, 1952. Don't delay—submit it today.

NAME _____
UNIT _____ DATE _____

My entry for the name of the Ulm Special Services Club is:

DON'T BE WASTEFUL-HELP TO CONSERVE!

Read our interesting article on page 4

The Weekly Diary

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST
Sunny but cool and windy

VOLUME 1 - NO. 23

ULM/NEU-ULM/LEIPHEIM/DILLINGEN

SEPTEMBER 1 - 1952

YOUR ROVING TOWN REPORTER

GERHARD KAISER

There were less at your ULM/NEU-ULM news assembly, I suppose it might be interesting for you to learn that the entertainment reporter will be considerably enlarged by three buildings — to say it more exactly: three cinema-halls — within the next few weeks. Two of them — the "Hilfsburg" (Friedrichstr.) and the "Capitol" (near H. H. Main station) will be opened in autumn, the third movie-theater — "Galerie" (Hirschstr.) — a couple of weeks later. In this connection it is also worth that the first film an original Ulm newspaper was shown at the "Galerie" and "Metropol" theaters last Friday. This general entertainment and especially the all-representative, funny in otherwise remarkable events which happened at Ulm and Neu-Ulm.

During Dr. Carl Joseph Lohmeyer's visit to Ulm last Sunday when 8000 Germans from all over Westphalia had assembled at the Charité-theater for a big meeting, he was accompanied by Dr. Gerhard Müller, one of the most outstanding German politicians.

His relatives have found new homes at Ulm. They now they had lived in the "Kleinbüchel" camp, which has been continued by army authorities. With the help of West government funds a social settlement has been built for these displaced persons.

Fishing nets are distributed in the rural district of Ulm. As fishermen they supplied workers from the fields, at Bismarck they almost caused a panic among the officers when they approached the woods, and at Hohenheim they even killed a hare.

27 British children have left Ulm after a four weeks stay in this city. Their home-towns in England, Great Britain, Commonwealth, have received them. (Cont'd Col. 2)

New American Church solemnly inaugurated at New Ulm's Ludendorff Barracks



By the grave hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" the impressive inauguration ceremonies for the new American church at New-Ulm's Ludendorff Barracks were opened. These ceremonies marked the conclusion of five months of intense and ceaseless working for a building which was destined to become a dignified home for all men wanting to worship their God in calm and peace — a home for the services of all creeds.

Numerous officers, enlisted men, dependents, and about one hundred German guests had assembled at the Ludendorff Barracks in order to participate in the inauguration festivities. Among the German officials Dr. Hailer, who at the same time functions as German chairman of the American-German Advisory Council, Neu-Ulm's Regimental

Mr. Rohm, and District President, Mr. K&H O&U-Ulm.

Following an organ-episode, Lt. Col. James J. McLaughlin (Chaplain of the Seventh Army) and a chaplain of Stuttgart Military Post recited prayers and poems. Sergeant Frank (Photo) brought a very fine and then Major Linkewier from the Engineer Corps knelt over the base of the church in Colonel Frank T. Osterberg. Major Linkewier stressed the fact that nearly 95 per cent of all Americans living at Neu-Ulm have their lodgings in the immediate neighborhood of the newly constructed church. Colonel Osterberg in return entrusted the keys to Captain Harold H. McDonald and Lt. Powell C. Eaton, both chaplains of the 18th Infantry Regiment.

Once more an organ-episode proved the excellent acoustics of the church. And then the most prom-

inent part of the day — Major General Ivan L. Bennett (Executive Adjutant of the United States Army) — delivered an address. He said: "Everybody who believes in God may enter this church." Major General Bennett went on saying that all soldiers should be grateful for opportunities of attending divine services.

The hymn "America" and a final prayer, recited by the chaplains of the 28th Division, terminated the ceremony.

Building expenses: 270,000 marks

And here are some technical data: For five months more fifty men, were employed with the construction of the American Church which required building expenses of about 270,000 German marks. The church affords space for 445 persons.

The ally of fortune-hunters

It's a truism: The pure money one needs the more possibilities of raising money. One is apt to hear: "Buy a lottery-ticket; you may win in German lotteries, Slovaks, however, another ally of fortune-hunters has succeeded in winning more enthusiastic sympathies than all lottery together were able to throughout the rather extensive period of their existence. I mean the so-called "Totó".

"Totó" has become a magic word, and it's a magic word especially over the week-end when throughout Germany more or less serious soccer-fans try to find out which are the better ones. And that exactly is also the task of my "lotto"-hunt: to find out who's going to win, even before the game has started. On their slip of paper they must write down a "1" if they suppose the first-mentioned team might win, a "2" if the same is the case with the second team, and finally a "3" if they hope or fear the game might end undecided.

Now, if one cannot happen to predict ten or twelve correct results he'll become a wealthy man within only a few hours. But — we mustn't forget this — it's by no means expert knowledge that makes such a fellow a rich man, but by no way of 100 cases only a good one. If you want to become a kind, too, that's the advice I've to offer: After 1000000 patterns, don't believe in your "dream", but only in a fortunate coincidence that'll happen one day, if not within two weeks, then perhaps within five months, but even then probably within five years. (BY YOUR ROVING TOWN-REPORTER)

American-German Committee established Its aim: Good and friendly relations

An American-German Advisory Council has been established at Ulm a few days ago. This was revealed by Colonel Frank T. Osterberg (The Military Sub Post Head) at the same time it was pointed out that this committee has been organized in order to secure good and friendly relations between American troops stationed at Ulm and Neu-Ulm and the German civilian population.

The German members of the advisory council have been nominated by the city council of Ulm and Neu-Ulm. The city of Ulm will be represented by its prominent magistrate officials and other important personalities who influence the public life within the area of the town. Here are their names: Dr. Hailer (First Mayor of Ulm and deputy of Lord Mayor Theodor Fritsch, Ulm's chief of police Mr. Jüttner, Mr. H. Jöck (chief of the municipal office for registration tasks and as the same time municipal interpreter), Mr. Haidinger (administrative head of the rural district of Ulm), Mr. Beckinger (police-officer for the rural district), Mr. Kurt Fried (representative of the German press and the city council), Mr. F. O. Ullrich (municipal architect), Mr. Jörg (police-officer), and Mr. K&H (District President).

Neu-Ulm's city council has elected five more members for the American-German "Good-neighbor-committee". They are: Dr. Tassilo Grunwald (Leit. Mayor of Neu-Ulm), Mr. J. Bösch (representative of Neu-Ulm's Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Hohenauer (municipal architect), Mr. Jörg (police-officer), and Mr. K&H (District President).

Ulm Military Sub Post on the other hand, has designated the following high-ranking American officers into the council: Colonel Frank T. Osterberg (The Sub Post C.O.), Lt. Col. Howard C. Ahlberg (Chief of Staff), Major John K. Reardon, Captain Robert H. Pender (Military Police), Captain Arthur D. Simpson (transportation officer), and a dependant whose name so far has not been published. As civilian US official representing the United States Consulate General, Mr. Raymond Loomis (Chief of the Ulm American Home) will participate in the proceedings and discussions of the group.

REPORTER

that have before they had experienced such fire and wood-fire) buildings.

In the Ludendorff Barracks and Neu-Ulm citizens have visited the new American church at the Ludendorff Barracks (Neu-Ulm). You find a description of report about this church in the same edition of the "Weekly Diary". A sewing mill at Bertholdstr. (between Ulm and a garage) at Aulendorf, also near Götting, at Ulm completely were destroyed by fire. The damage is totaling 200,000 German marks.

Lieutenant General Charles L. Helle, now Commanding General of the US Seventh Army, visited units of the 28th Division stationed at Goringen.

A terrible incident was reported from Ulm's suburb Neudingen. There a butcher, 32 years of age, set on fire his apartment and afterwards shot himself. Ulm's fire brigade succeeded in fighting down the flames but the man had already died. Police headquarters announced that the butcher had committed suicide after serious quarrels with his wife.

At Tübingen (District of Neckar) a kid, two years and a half, was caught and killed by a truck. A boy, 18, who had tried to save the child suffered bad injuries.

At present the well-known Ulm motor-car factory Kautschke is constructing 100 ambulances for Buenos Aires and other towns in Argentina. Don Frederico Rubio, a leading government official from Buenos Aires, therefore paid a visit to Ulm.

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Ring Street completed and inaugurated

The bounds and demarcations which had marked off part of the Ring Street since 1949, however, the gas station "Benzinwerk" and the restaurant "Waldsch" have disappeared. Taking their place one could see flag masts with the flag of the USA, the Republic of Austria, and the flag of Neu-Ulm.

Numerous operations have been waiting for the official opening by the American and German authorities. From the American, Colonel Osterberg, commanding officer of the sub-post Neu-Ulm, Major Huston, press office, officers, enlisted men and dependents had assembled, among the German representatives had been Bürgermeister Mr. Rohm (Neu-Ulm), city councilors of Neu-Ulm, officials of the municipal building administration, the police, and representatives of the district president.

At the beginning of the inauguration-ceremony, Major Huston, who was acting for Major Linkewier, Stuttgart office, handed over the keys of the Ring Street to Colonel Osterberg.

Colonel Osterberg was mentioning that the new street was built by Americans, but a German firm carried out the job. The town of Neu-Ulm so the German authority would take over the street but, nevertheless,

starting with this day the street would be spent by the American as well as the German. With these words Colonel Osterberg handed the Bürgermeister of Neu-Ulm a pair of scissors to cut the white ribbon.

Bürgermeister Rohm held a short speech, talking about the history of this road-making. Furthermore he mentioned his first experience with the establishment of the dependent quarters, along the "old" Ring Street. Through the excellent co-operation of both parties — American and German — difficulties concerning the construction and building materials could be removed. Also the special requests of the town of Neu-Ulm became for attending satisfied.

This part of the street is an excellent part of the new and modern Ulm, and its fast construction and completion, proved a pleasing cooperation between the American and German. With these words Mr. Rohm finished his speech. Then he cut the white ribbon which had signified his new part of the Ring Street from the old way and the Mannheim Street. With this act he gave the key for the long line of cars, both American and German cars, which for the first time passed the Ring Street.

American troops built modern "Ring street"



Our pictures show the ceremony held on August 20th at Neu-Ulm, when Colonel Frank T. Osterberg and Major Huston together with Neu-Ulm's First Mayor Mr. Rohm officially opened the modern "Ring Street", built by US troops.

Ulm "City Team" leaves for USA

Headed by Elmer First Major Dr. Hailer a group of eight citizens will depart from Frankfurt Rhein-Main Airport on September 4th for a three months stay in the United States. They are the members of the Ulm city group: Dr. Hailer, Mr. Fried (Member of the City Council and editor of the "Schwäbische Nachrichten"), Mrs. Wittmann and Mr. Zeller (both members of the City Council), Mr. K&H (leading municipal police officer), Mr. Wiegand (librarian), Mr. Draxner (city councilor for all refugees in the Ulm area), Mrs. Rapping (journalist), and Miss A. Feinert (interpreter). Your "Weekly Diary" intends to publish regularly reports and stories from the three-year stay across the United States.

A cozy and comfortable club room



This is the wonderful, comfortable club hall of the New Ludendorff KZ club which is said to be the largest and finest American army club of EUROM.

Needy children quest at the Blue Byway Club



SOME OF THE 50 Needy Children at Eiser-Feldheim who will be present at the Xmas Party to be given at the Blue Byway Service Club on Sunday 21 December 1952. In addition to presents of toys and needed items such as mittens, gloves and caps, the children will be treated with a special Xmas Puppet show and a Matrimonial and of course it wouldn't be Xmas without a Santa Claus who will also be there to pass out the gifts.

What Do German Children Enjoy?

American soldiers compete in passing Christmas Parties.

The American units for the moment show fervent activity. A grand operation is being started: The Christmas Parties. Each unit makes it a point of honor that their Christmas party should be the most beautiful of the Detachment. Committees were formed, meetings took place last-previous and individual soldiers were selected to take care of its different parts of the program. No one of them will be responsible for the transportation, one for the entertainment, one for the food, one for the presents, one for the decorations etc. The warm-hearted questions of the soldiers were most impressive: what do German children like to eat? What sort of presents would they enjoy the most? What sort of entertainment would they like? Are there wishes quite different than those of our children? All these questions were fully answered by the German side by the Civil Affairs Office.

Now, dear New-Ulm parents, please be not astonished if during the next few days a soldier knocks at your door and asks you what your little Liesl or Fritz will best want as a Christmas present? He will have a German letter with three presents, with him for better understanding. For this story mentioned unit has resolved that each soldier would sponsor a child individually for Christmas and would visit him personally. Please be not too impatient with your relatives so that the Christmas idea of the millions getting charity can be really become effective.

By the way: not all the sponsored children will be visited personally by the soldiers. For all those children from Ulm and New-Ulm are divided into 2 groups and each sponsoring unit has its own ideas on how to make the effective Christmas party. But when Santa Claus comes from America, on the 20 Dec 1952, rest assured that all the children will have their Christmas joy.

OUR WEEKLY PORTRAIT



This is Miss Butterfield, Director of the recently opened new KZ club at New-Ulm's New Ludendorff barracks. She is known and respected for her kind and energetic manners.

New PX shopping center at New-Ulm's Ringstrasse

The new shopping center at the corner of Ringstrasse and Muensterstrasse New-Ulm will be ready for use shortly after the New Year. The first commodity will be the U.S. Army Commissary and later the main P. X. store.

The present Commissary located in the Bockler-Kaserne will be closed at the end of December on 8 January 1953 and will reopen in its new location on 12 January 1953. There will be no opportunity to make purchases during that period but bread and milk deliveries will continue as usual.

Interested German Officials and business men in the grocery and meat business will be invited to visit the new store between the hours of 11:00 and 11:30 on 12 January 1953. It was understood that Capt. Donaldson requested publication in the Weekly Diary because the majority of the American families read it.

Want Good Holiday Trips?

See Hannak At Blue Byways

Special Christmas Tour to ITALY, starting 20th Dec 1952, returning 1st Jan 1953. You will see BOLOGNA, VENICE, ROME, NAPLES, POMPEII, SORRENTO and FLORENCE.

Special Christmas Tour to SPAIN and FRANCE, by sea, overnight included 2000.—, Leave Ulm 20th Dec. 1952, return 2nd Jan 1953, see beautiful SPAIN BARCELONA, MADRID, BILBAO, MADRID, TOLEDO, and PARIS.

Special Tour to FRANCE: NEW YEAR in PARIS.

Spand Christmas or New Year in SWITZERLAND. Special 3-day-tour or 1-week-tour to ST. MORITZ or DAVOS or SEMMATT.

NEW YEAR in ALGERIA, a special Air Tour to Northern Africa leaves Basel, Switzerland on Sunday Dec. 28th 1952 return Jan. 1st 1953.

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The too steady visit the modern, beautiful selling halls of the spinningmill and weavingmill Rottenacker in Ulm, Langestrasse 15. There you find all textile articles for daily use.

The favorable opening-prices are still valid!

You'll be well advised and completely satisfied in. Our personnel speaks English and will be able to comply with your wishes. Please come occasionally and check quietly among our many articles.

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Hensolt - Binoculars
Barometer - Thermometer
Modern Glasses

Optikermeister Schmid
Ulm - Hofgasse 18

More shopping reaches **Ebner's Book Store** in the Muenster Bezer

The first EM Club in Ulm/Neu-Ulm had already opened in mid-February 1952 in the Boelcke barracks on Unterer Kuhberg. The members of the club had to pay a monthly fee of one US dollar and to wear a Class A uniform. From 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., they could enjoy live music, American cuisine, beer, spirits, tobacco, table shuffleboard and slot machines. German guests were admitted by invitation, but in the beginning they were rather the exception.

The EM Club in *New Ludendorff*, described in the Ulm/Neu-Ulm location newspaper *The Weekly Diary* as “wonderful, cozy and comfortable,” was said to be “the largest and nicest American army club of EUCOM” (= *European Command*). Even if this primarily meant the “club hall” or “dancing-hall” of the *Terrace Club* in the west wing of the *Recreation Center* (later also known as *Arts + Crafts*). However, the rather impressive EM Club building (= Wiley EM Club) was seamlessly integrated into the overall attractive appearance of the facility. The barracks buildings were erected in standard prefabricated construction and all were constructed in accordance with the design guidelines drawn up by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The club buildings, however, were probably exceptions.

The almost square floor plan, the neoclassical arrangement of the row of windows, especially on the north and south elevations, and the hipped roof perched on a lantern gave the EM Club building a dignified and at the same time ceremonious



Rossbändiger at the entrance to the Ludendorff kasern, today the corner of Memminger Straße/Heinz-Rühmann-Straße (StadtA Neu-Ulm, Welte Collection)

character. One could almost think that an attempt was made here to create a utilitarian minimalist definition consisting of essential elements of the Villa Rotonda and Ulm’s Zundeltor turrets, spiced with a touch of tropical colonial flair: Defensiveness, dominance, and cultural representation. In some respects, the overall appearance of the club was also reminiscent of an indoor riding arena. Perhaps the architect had been inspired by the nearby equestrian statue (Rossbändiger) of the old Ludendorff barracks? Whatever the case may be, compared with the American club buildings of the other continental new barracks, the elegant construction of the EM Club in *New Ludendorff* stood out clearly. The newly erected “gem” aroused desires not only among the reporters of the local press: “It is hard to imagine to what extent it will be able to stimulate Neu-Ulm’s social life one day, if ...”¹⁹

19 *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from November 22, 1952.

COLD WAR WARRIORS & COOL JAZZMEN

The opening of the club, however, took place at a turbulent time. The Americans were pressing for an end to the war of position in Korea - with nuclear weapons if necessary. The theater of war in the Far East had been the focus of world attention for months. As early as the beginning of November 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), the former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army (CSA), a

proven expert on European conditions, was elected as the new President of the United States. For the time being, the danger of a quite conceivable withdrawal of the USA from Europe seemed to have been averted.

However, the so-called Deutschlandvertrag (German Contract) had not yet been ratified, and proponents and opponents in the Bundestag engaged

in heated arguments about the extent and purpose of the integration with the West as a generally binding state doctrine. In the Bundestag session of November 18, 1952, the deputy SPD parliamentary group chairman Erwin Schoettle (1899-1976) from Stuttgart even described the vote on the treaty as “*the most important political decision ever to be taken by this House*”.²⁰ The communist party of Germany (KPD) regarded the agreement with the three Western occupying powers, also known as the General Treaty, as a “*disgrace*,” while Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967) and his coalition wanted to draw a “*line under the terrible war and the postwar period*”²¹ by integrating the FRG into a treaty and alliance system guaranteed under international law and oriented toward the West (the EDC Treaty). In questions of rearmament, Adenauer’s plans were initially opposed by a broad social opposition, including those outside parliament (as well as the French neighbors), in the form of the “*Without Me*” movement.

Meanwhile, in the East, a terminally ill Josef Stalin (1878-1953) staged his last show trial. In Prague, on November 20, 1952, the Slánský trial began as part of an anti-Semitic physicians’ conspiracy and as the grand finale of Stalin’s purges.

Locally, in Ulm, which was beginning to develop into a southern German cinema hotspot, the development of the new industrial area in the Danube valley was being accelerated and the preparations of the Geschwister Scholl Foundation for establishing the School of Design (Hochschule für Gestaltung, HfG) were in full swing. On November 13, 1952, the city’s most famous daughter, the 26-year-old “*world star of film celebrities*,” the *sinner* Hildegard Knef (1925-2002), paid a visit.²² She presented her film *Alraune* in the Gloria Filmpalast in the Hirschstraße (now the drugstore Müller), which had only opened at

the beginning of November. The town of Neu-Ulm, on the other hand, made successful efforts to attract other companies, but in mid-November 1952 refrained from holding a ceremony to mark the laying of the foundation stone for the controversial new town hall building.²³

At that time, cultural work in the provinces was largely carried out under the motto *Dem deutschen Volk das deutsche Lied* (To the German people, the German song). German initiatives of their own still seemed somewhat suspicious to the occupying powers. In contrast, a visit to the Amerika-Haus in Ulm on the Marktplatz (and later on Frauenstraße) or an invitation to one of the many German-American evenings at the *Blue Byway* in Ulm’s Karlstraße opened curious eyes and ears to the entire diversity of the American cultural industry. *Reeducation* was followed by *Americanization*.²⁴ It should not go unmentioned at this point that also on November 20, 1952, the composer and musicologist Friedrich Leinert (1908-1975) gave a lecture in the Amerika-Haus in Ulm entitled *Jazz - taken seriously*.

It is true that Germans rarely had the opportunity to enter the barracks area and that the entertainment program of the Special Services Club in *New Ludendorff* was entirely geared to the needs of the occupying soldiers. However, the occasional visitor from Ulm/Neu-Ulm may well have enjoyed the dance music of the *Terrace Club Combo* or the

²³ See, among others B. TREU, *Das Neu-Ulmer Rathaus. Vom Staatszimmer zum Rathaus als Stadtmittelpunkt* (= Documentation of the Neu-Ulm Town Archives, Volume 9), Neu-Ulm 2005..

²⁴ See to this group of themes among others U. GERHARDT, *Soziologie der Stunde Null. Zur Gesellschaftskonzeption des amerikanischen Besatzungsregimes in Deutschland 1944-1945/46*, Frankfurt am Main 2005; P. GASSERT, „Amerikanismus, Antiamerikanismus, Amerikanisierung. New Literature on the Social, Economic, and Cultural History of American Influence in Germany and Europe,“ in *Archiv für Sozialgeschichte* 39 (1999), pp. 531-561; A. SCHILDT, „Zur so genannten Amerikanisierung in der frühen Bundesrepublik – einige Differenzierungen“, in: L. Koch (Hg.), *Modernisierung als Amerikanisierung? Entwicklungslinien der westdeutschen Kultur 1945-1960*, Bielefeld 2007, S. 23-44; K. GERUND u. P. HEIKE (Hgg.), *Die amerikanische Reeducation-Politik nach 1945. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf ‚America’s Germany‘*, Bielefeld 2015; A. DOERING-MANTEUFFEL, „Amerikanisierung und Westernisierung, Version 2.0“, in: *Docupedia-Zeitgeschichte*, 19.08.2019, http://docupedia.de/zg/Doering-Manteuffel_amerikanisierung_v2_de_2019 (15.06.2021).

²⁰ *Plenary minutes 01/237*, German Bundestag – Stenographic report, 237. session, Bonn, Tuesday, November 18, 1952, p. 10932 (D).

²¹ *Ibid.* P. 10934 (C and K. ADENAUER, *Erinnerungen* (Memoires) 1945-1953, Stuttgart 1965, p. 536

²² *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from November 11, 1952

performances of the *Glee Club* soldiers' choir. For many German children, Christmas presents in the barracks, Thanksgiving and the American Easter were absolute highlights. For the Easter party in *New Ludendorff* in 1953, more than 200 children of so-called East Zone refugees had signed up to attend. Not all of them could be admitted. But those who had been selected by one of the American Easter sponsors experienced an Easter Sunday full of merriment and warm-heartedness.



Captain Robert C. Wiley
(StadtA Neu-Ulm)

Finally on June 2, 1953 both the old and the new Ludendorff Barracks were named Wiley Barracks after Robert C. Wiley (1907-1944) the high school teacher and recipient of the *Distinguished Service Cross* (posthumously) Captain), from Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania (1907-1944). Wiley had distinguished

himself by his leadership and valor in August 1944 as a company commander with the 110th *Infantry Regiment* during *Operation Overlord* and, wounded several times, died a soldier's death in an engagement near Saint-Lô, Normandy.²⁵ Despite the renaming, the barracks continued to be referred to as the (New) Ludendorff Barracks by the German authorities and the local population into the 1970s.

The actual EM Club at Wiley Barracks was now also synonymously referred to as the Wiley EM Club or simply the Wiley Club. Meanwhile, the Army had hired several German jazz bands for its club system. Although jazz was already playing all day on the American Forces Network (AFN), the Army still insisted on dignified evening

²⁵ On the biography of the eponym of the present Neu-Ulm district, cf. E. A. MERK, "Who's Wiley?" - Auf den Spuren des Namenspatrons des Neu-Ulmer Wiley (2021), in: https://stadtgeschichte.neu-ulm.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Whos_Wiley.pdf (28.04.2022) .



Harald Spannknobel at the drums
at Wiley Club (H. Spannknobel)

entertainment with a live band for its EM and NCO clubs. Harald Spannknobel (*1926), nick-named "Spanne", born in Wedding, Germany, a local drum legend and later long-serving Chairman of the Big Band Ulm e.V. as well as being the initiator of the jam sessions in the Café Wintergarten, had

already played drums in the Hitler Youth, played after the war in Berlin, Hamburg, Braunschweig and, together with Walter Rettig a.k.a. Eddy Stone and the exceptional trumpeter Horst Fischer (1930-1986), had played in the EM Club of the Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart-Möhringen, when the musicians around bandleader Heinz Riempp got the offer to entertain the GIs in Ulm and Neu-Ulm from now on. With a new line-up, the *blue parrots berlin* made their way to the Danube. Between 1953/54 and 1959 they also played the Wiley Club, alternating monthly with the *Walter Geiger Quintet* and other German bands. In the beginning, Spannknobel, like so many jazz musicians of that time, temporarily lived with the Gruber family at Reuttierstraße 7, where Valdemar Rollins (1925-2018), the brother of saxophonist Sonny Rollins (born 1930) who was stationed in Ulm/Neu-Ulm, is said to have been a guest.



The blue parrots at the Atlantic Bar Stuttgart (H. Spannknobel)



The blue parrots at the Wiley Club
(H. Spannkebel)

In 1956, the *blue parrots* signed an exclusive annual contract with the legendary Atlantic Bar in Stuttgart's Büchsenstraße. The young Götz Wendlandt (born 1940) helped out as a bass player. International stars such as Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996), Oscar Peterson (1925-2007) or the

casual atmosphere of the Atlantic Bar. Of course, not without conquering the stage and the hearts of all jazz lovers.

Afterwards, drummer Spannkebel, together with bassist Hubert Kübler, trumpeters Helmut Müller and Alfons Obermaier, and Henri Leben on piano, played again every evening in Ulm and Neu-Ulm. From 7.00 pm until 11.00 pm they aimed to sweeten the after work-hours of the usually bored soldiers.

Spannkebel, who in the meantime had moved into an attic apartment at Philosophenweg 6 in Neu-Ulm, described this engagement in retrospect as simply "fantastic".²⁶ The pay was above average, drinks and food were free. The soldiers were an appreciative audience, with only occasional clashes between the Yankees from the North and the rednecks from the South, according to Harald Spannkebel. He could not detect any racist violence or even formal racial segregation during the 1950s. After all, a presidential decree of July 26,



Installation Pass to the Wiley Barracks (H. Spannkebel)

Viennese Franz Georg Pressler (1927-1982) a.k.a. Fatty George used to wind down after their performances in the neighboring Liederhalle in the



The blue parrots at the Wiley Club (H. Spannkebel)

²⁶ Personal communication from Harald Spannkebel, Blaustein.

1948, had criminalized any form of discrimination in the American armed forces on the basis of skin color. Spannkebel's observation, however, is more likely to have been due to the relatively small number of black soldiers in the Neu-Ulm garrison at the beginning. The potential for conflict was obviously not yet high enough, or the centuries-old



Willi Johanns, 2005
(Willi Johanns)

segregation was still so deep in the bones of both white and black members of the army that it was not noticeable and was simply taken for granted. Especially as it was well known that off barracks, the soldiers "*created their own segregated bars according to skin color*".²⁷

The career of Willi Johanns (*1934) also began at the Wiley Club. Born in Fürstenwalde near Berlin, Johanns moved to the Danube at a young age as the son of the master musician of the Artillery Regiment 41 (WH). His family moved into an apartment at 33 Zinglerstrasse in Ulm. A few months before the end of the war, in the winter of 1944/45, as Johanns was confined to bed with a fever and was bored, he turned the tuning dial on his "People's radio". He heard a strong rhythm full of enchanting melancholy



The blue parrots at the Atlantic Bar Stuttgart (H. Spannkebel)



The blue parrots at the Wiley Club (H. Spannkebel)

coming from the radio. An enemy station was playing Don't Get Around Much Anymore by Duke Ellington (1899-1974), Johanns recalled. Johanns recovered from his fever but remained addicted to jazz fever for the rest of his life. In Neu-Ulm's Café Central at Augsburgertor, he was given an early opportunity to demonstrate his talent as a singer. But his idiosyncratic interpretations were not particularly well received by the predominantly German audience. The owner of the café finally gave him a kind of "*house ban*".²⁸

The American garrison understandably exerted an irresistible attraction on Johanns. A friendly captain in the U.S. Army granted him privileged access to the barracks facilities. Time and again he visited the kiosk at Wiley Barracks and also the EM Club there. A "*hostess*" of the club system, Johanns remembers, supplied him with the latest shellac records from the USA.²⁹ In this way, he was always up to date with the latest musical developments. One evening he stayed a little longer to listen to a concert by the *Walter Geiger Quintet*. On the spur of the moment, Johanns asked the band leader, Walter Geiger (1926-2015), if he could join him on stage. Geiger agreed and the GIs enjoyed the art of probably Germany's first scat singer. Ulm and Neu-Ulm soon became too small for Mister Bebop, as he was later called. In 1957 Johanns left what he saw as a stuffy (double) nest on the Danube and moved to the Bavarian capital to study graphic design (commercial art).

28 Personal communication from Willi Johanns, Munich.

29 Ibid..

In Munich, he sang regularly at Freddie Brocksieper's (1912-1990) Schwabing Studio 15, as well as in other clubs, music pubs and (erotic) bars. According to Jürgen Wölfer (1944-2015), Johanns developed into "a brilliant scat singer who has no need to hide from any big name of jazz singing"³⁰ During the sixties, Wille Johanns finally established himself as a permanent fixture on the German, European and sometimes even the American, i.e. international, jazz scene.³¹

In February 1966, Dieter Zimmerle (1916-1989), a native of Ulm, Germany, dedicated an article to Johanns in his *Jazz Podium*, one of the most renowned international magazines for jazz music, under the title Voice for Jazz. According to the article, Johanns claims to have learned the scat in



The blue parrots, Alfons Obermaier at the Saxophone, Wiley Club (H. Spannkebel)

1954 in Ulm/Neu-Ulm from the drummer of an American jazz sextet. "At that time, I also heard Charlie Ventura's 'Bop for the people' program with Jack Cain and Roy Kral. What they sang, I initially learned most of it by heart," says Johanns.³² "Later I noticed that it is not enough, just to sing something that somebody else has written and sung, but rather you have to create your own material, for it to be truly satisfying. I began to do this, when I went

³⁰ J. WÖLFER, *Jazz in Deutschland. Das Lexikon. Alle Musiker und Plattenfirmen von 1920 bis heute*, Höfen (Tirol) 2008, S. 164.

³¹ At the beginning of 1965, Johanns also performed at the New Yorker Club Open End von Chubby Jacksons (1918-2003).

³² W. Johanns, "Stimme für den Jazz", in: *Jazz Podium* 14,2 (1966), S. 33-36, S. 33. This short but extremely compelling article can also be read as an instructive introduction to the art and possibilities of singing in (jazz) music.



The Walter Geiger Quintet (H.-P. Gruber)

to Munich in 1957" [...]."³³ However, Johanns did not really find his own style until the mid-1960s. His philosophy, if you will, could be summed up as follows: "It also takes courage, contrary to all traditional conventions and what one normally learns in music lessons [1966], not to use the voice in such a way that, above all, it sounds beautiful. Singing beautifully, clearly and fully, these are things that must be dropped, because all of this is not important when it comes to vocal expressiveness."³⁴

At the Wiley Club in Neu-Ulm, Hans Peter Gruber (1943-2022) of the German-American *Modern Jazz Quartet* and *Sextet*, respectively, was able to detect an invisible but extremely real "Demarcation Line".³⁵ The Blacks and the People of Color sat to the left of the stage and the white people sat to the right. Since the beginning of the Sixties, the majority of the Club's visitors came from the Barrack's Black Community. If racist insults resulted in physical confrontations, then, according to Gruber in his brochure *Jazz in Ulm. Die Anfänge des Jazz in Ulm bis 1963* from 2014, the Military Police (MP) were called without further ado and "something unbelievable happened: in the next moment Blacks and whites beat up the MP together!"³⁶ In the end,

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.* P. 35.

³⁵ H. P. GRUBER, *Jazz in Ulm. Die Anfänge des Jazz in Ulm bis 1963*, Ulm 2014, S. 23.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 25.

however, the extremely resolute MP always kept the upper hand.

The German bands were not involved in these occasional bar fights. The musicians found the constant temptation of excessive alcohol consumption much more dangerous. The band members got carried away with the often-boisterous mood of the GIs and were rarely averse to returning the toast. Not everyone stayed with this “*precursor to alcoholism*,” Spannkebel said. Every night at around 10 p.m., the club’s president would tell the band to play soft music. When the blue parrots played their version of the standard Flamingo, the GIs now knew that the curfew was approaching. Since the end of the 1950s, country, rock’n’roll and rockabilly had increasingly mingled with the still popular swing and modern jazz still discredited by good German fathers and their Swabian housewives as so-called Negro music. Apart from the big events in the Kornhaus and the Donauhalle, this was now also played in the Parkhotel in Neu-Ulm, in the so-called Justizkeller below the park between the Landgericht and Platzgasse, in the Fort Unterer Kuhberg, in some private cellars and above all in the Gaslaterne in Kohlgasse, the first jazz pub in Ulm and predecessor of the popular and equally infamous Aquarium nightclub, which was known far beyond Ulm and Neu-Ulm.³⁷ Former members of the *Count Basie Orchestras* who were stationed in Neu Ulm, were also reported to have played and jammed in the Gaslaterne.³⁸ In 1964, the Jazzkeller Sauschdall finally opened its doors in the caponiers of the former federal fortress at Ulm’s Gaisenberg (Prittwitzstraße).³⁹ By the mid-1960s, the Americans had left their last sites in Ulm or handed them over to

the German Bundeswehr.⁴⁰ From then on, American life in the twin city took place primarily in Neu-Ulm.

Graz-born Heinz Hindler (born 1939) of the *Ulmer Tonmischer* knew every pub and establishment on the left and right of the Danube between Oberberghof, Bundesbahnhof (BuBaHo), Oberer Stube and the American clubs, and in the second half of the 1960s he also played regularly at the Wiley Club. As always, an engagement with the Americans was highly coveted in music circles, because of the pay and the plentiful catering. In the meantime, the GIs also frequently brought their German Fräuleins as guests to the club. Those who had come away empty-handed from the “ladies’-choice dance” washed down their boredom or frustration with whisky, beer and lots and lots of ice. Even at the end of the 1960s, the soldiers, often hopelessly drunk, demanded that the musicians play the same songs and hits over and over again, songs that had long since been played to excess, such as *Beer Barrel Polka* (= Rosamunde) or *Ich hab mein Herz in Heidelberg verloren*. Bassist Hindler and the *Ulmer Tonmischer* took it with stoic composure and fulfilled each of the wishes of the mostly young soldiers. Meanwhile, the Bundeswehr comrades - rearmed (West) Germany had joined NATO in 1955 - also had, in principle, free access to the American clubs.

One of those was Ulm’s Hans-Joachim Amann (*1939). He was not only one of the founders of the NATO Sergeants Club Ulm/Neu-Ulm (1967), but also, together with his attractive girl-friend and later wife Anneliese, made many acquaintances and friendships among the GIs. In his 2013 *Memoirs of the Americans in Ulm and Neu-Ulm*, he summed up the uniqueness of the Wiley Club quite aptly with the following words: “*The club room was unimaginable for those days. As the windows reached from the floor to the ceiling, one had the impression of sitting in the garden, especially in summer. The dance floor was a little lower and you could watch the dancers wonderfully. Every weekend a different band played and the dance bands alternated with jazz and*

³⁷ See P. GÖBBEL, “Die aktuelle Ulmer Jazzszene... ..und eine Rückblende”, in: *Ulmer Forum* 40 (1976/77), p. 35ff.; S. HANS-LOVSKY, *Von Trockenkartoffeln und Kellerasseln. Geschichten zur Geschichte des Stadtjugendring Ulm e.V.*, Ulm 1999, p. 33ff. Jazz and existentialist cellars based on the French model had also been booming in Germany since the early 1950s. For the Aquarium, see R. GRIMMINGER, *Nice Society: Nachtclub Aquarium. Drei Jahrzehnte Glitzer und Glamour*, Ulm 1999.

³⁸ See H. KOCH u. G. STEINLE, *Jazz in der Gaslaterne*, o.O. [Neu-Ulm] 2016, S. pages 4 and 6

³⁹ See C. BAUER (Hg.), *50 Jahre Jazzkeller Sauschdall in Ulm*, Ulm 2013.

⁴⁰ See RANKER 2018, as note 4, page 276.

country bands. Where else was there something like this in Ulm? Discotheques or music pubs were still unknown.”⁴¹

In the first months and years after 1952, the club’s stage was still located in the western part of the building, to the left and right between the entrances to the kitchen.

Soon, however, a sparkling, chrome-topped bar was installed in this place and the stage was moved to the opposite side. From then on, the musicians played on a much higher podium surrounded by a brass railing. Remodeling and minor renovations to the club were not uncommon. Sometimes the club’s facilities suffered a lot by the partying and the exuberant GI’s. Hans Peter Gruber remembers one Halloween concert in the mid-sixties, when the over-enthusiastic, predominantly black audience stormed the *Modern-Jazz-Sextett’s* stage. In the process, the balustrade, now made of wood, was completely demolished.

According to Gruber, the layout of the EM Club had not undergone any major changes since the 1960s. *“Back then, the EM Wiley Club already had the same room layout as today, only the bar and the stage were much smaller. For us young Germans, the club’s décor was something special, because the furnishings, with small tables and upholstered chairs, heavy red velvet curtains, carpeting everywhere except for the dance floor between the bar and bandstand, would have been more likely found in an expensive café than in a recreational club for ordinary GI’s.”*⁴² As part of the German-American Friendship Weeks held since 1955, the doors of the EM Club had occasionally opened to the civilian public.⁴³ At these rare events, relatives

“IF WE SOLDIERS GET ANY NASTIER, WE WILL BURN ULM DOWN”⁴⁴

German-American relations in the crisis years 1970 to 1972, “a short but ferocious history”⁴⁵

of German soldiers, civilian employees, and young people in particular were given a more or less intimate glimpse into the not-always-so-perfect world of American garrison soldiers.

During the Vietnam War, there were frequent^(44/45) (mass) demonstrations, mostly by young people, in Ulm and Neu-Ulm. On November 14, 1969, at the height of the protest, the Ulm Vietnam Committee organized a march from Ulm’s main train station to the gates of Wiley Barracks in Memminger Straße. Occasionally, attention was also called to the unmistakable racism in the American armed forces. In a letter to the editor in *The Stars and Stripes* (S&S) in August 1969 under the title *‘Wee Pals’ & Color*, an anonymous reader (“A Reader”) from Neu-Ulm complained about the hypocrisy of the comic strip *Wee Pals* by the Afro-American cartoonist Morrie Turner (1923-2014), which had appeared in the troop magazine since 1965.⁴⁶ *“It always depicts children of different races living together in harmony. Then when it points out someone’s great accomplishment it is always a Negro’s. Didn’t the red man, or white man, or yellow man ever contribute something worth mentioning?”* A response from the author of *Wee Pals* was attached to the reader’s letter.

41 H.-J. AMANN, „Jetzt schwätz halt a bissle mit dem!“ *Erinnerungen an die Amerikaner in Ulm und Neu-Ulm 1945 bis 1991*, o.O. [Ulm] o.J. [2013], p. 28.

42 GRUBER 2014, as note 35, page 25

43 See StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 10701

44 *Schwäbische Zeitung* from August 21, 1971.

45 *Neu-Ulms Mayor D. Lang in the interview with G.-R Ranft, 2002.*

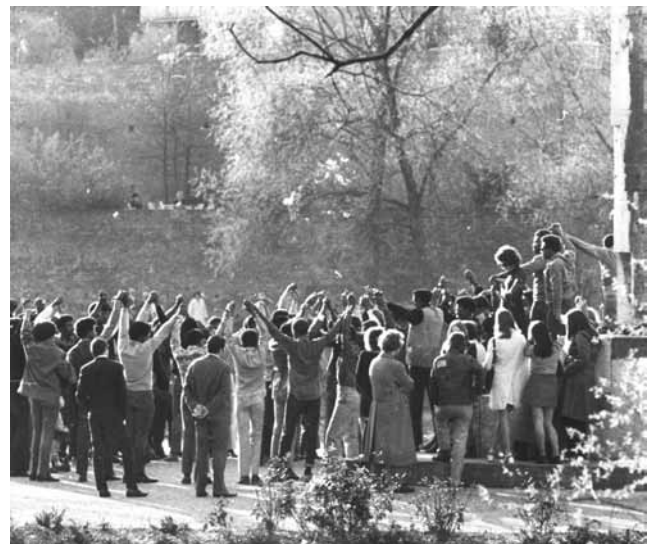
46 *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) v. 25.08.1969. Unless otherwise stated the following citations refer to this article. Accentuations in the original.

Turner did appreciate the comments of the letter to a certain extent, but explained that he, Turner - as a black artist - was also ultimately concerned with specifically highlighting black history(s) and experiences. *“In researching black history, I admit to becoming fascinated in what I learned and shifted my concentration to that aspect [...]”*. Turner, however, had not only received mail from Neu-Ulm, but was also confronted with similar remarks and accusations *“by others.”* Therefore, in future he wanted to return to concentrating on the real intention of the comic, *“to include all races and religions, which the strip is all about.”* In early September, a sergeant stationed in Darmstadt responded to the outraged letter writer from Neu-Ulm. The sergeant was full of praise for the Wee Pals, *“because it is so good to see cartoons such as Morrie Turner’s featuring the accomplishments of the American Negro. For so many years everything has been focused on the accomplishments of the white man and his deeds and has left the Negro in the shadows [...]”* The ‘Reader’ from Neu Ulm, if he is not a Negro, apparently has tasted a small dose of what the Negro has been tasting in large quantities for many years, and that is discrimination! It kind of hurts, doesn’t it?⁴⁷

In fact, the Seventh Army (USAREUR) stationed in Germany in particular, with a proportion of about 15% black GIs, seemed to have a serious problem. Following the violent uprisings and riots of the 1960s (Watts Riots, etc.) and the assassination of Martin Luther King (1929-1968) in April 1968, racial tensions increased significantly in the second half of 1969, also at USAREUR locations. The first major protest by black GIs took place in Augsburg in the fall of 1969, according to statements by the commander-in-chief of U.S. forces stationed in Europe, 4-star General James H. Polk (1911-1992) *“the first really serious incident that was completely a racial problem. It was essentially a mass black protest.”*⁴⁸ According to official statements, this

protest was sparked off by the lack of hair cosmetics for Blacks in the local *PX-Stores*.

Either way, the Black communities in the German garrisons were no longer willing to accept any form of discrimination. In some German university cities, such as Heidelberg or Frankfurt am Main, socialist students expressed solidarity with the Black Power movement. In many places, however, discrimination within the garrisons remained hidden from the German population. Only rarely did racist incidents from American barracks reach the public. In 1970, again in Augsburg, members of the Ku Klux Klan had apparently written the following



Demonstration Black Power Gathering, Schwal Neu-Ulm (SWP, M. Müssig)

on an American barracks building *“Hitler should have killed one million Negroes instead of the Jews”*.⁴⁹ There was no immediate reaction from the Augsburg site administration. Tellingly, the graffiti was only removed months later.

commander of the 24th Infantry Division stationed in Augsburg, 2-star General Edwin A. Walker (1909-1993), an avowed racist and radical anti-communist, attempted to implement an extreme right-wing educational program within his division’s area of command. To this end, he distributed publications of the John Birch Society (JBS), among others. As a result, he was relieved of his command in the spring of 1961. At the beginning of November 1961, Walker, as the only active officer of general rank in the U.S. armed forces in the 20th century, resigned from his post and from then on devoted himself to political agitation..

⁴⁷ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from September 4, 1969. Accentuations in the original.

⁴⁸ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) v. 17.02.1970. Augsburg had been at the center of an Army scandal several years earlier. The

⁴⁹ Citation from M. HÖHN u. M. KLIMKE, *A Breath of Freedom. The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany*, New York 2010, page 161.

Such assaults, which were obviously racially motivated, were not isolated incidents. The non-white members of the American armed forces also suffered from considerable institutional grievances. The chances of advancement for black military personnel have always been much lower than those of their white comrades. This circumstance weighed all the more heavily because the percentage of casualties among black draftees, especially in the early years of the Vietnam War, was disproportionately high compared to their white peers. If enlistments into the military still largely followed chance with the infamous draft lottery, the assignment and use of combat units on the front lines seemed to simply make a mockery of the U.S. Constitution's principle of equality. Moreover, in American military justice, black and white soldiers were by no means treated equally. If the behavior of racist officers and commanders in particular aroused the justified ire of black GIs, many soldiers also remained suspicious of the behavior of German landlords and restaurateurs. "Why are we here protecting the Germans when they won't even serve us?" was a widely held opinion.⁵⁰

In their 2010 study on the impact of the formation and radicalization of the U.S. peace and civil rights movement on African American soldiers in Germany (A Breath of Freedom), historians Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke, who taught in the United States and the United Arab Emirates, respectively, pointed to the significant fact that the officer corps of the Seventh Army stationed in Germany in particular had served as a reservoir for the Vietnam War in the years around 1970. American garrisons in Germany were also used as stopovers for soldiers returning to the United States from Vietnam. "That West Germany served as a deployment base to Vietnam and also as a way station for returning GIs to cool off before heading stateside did not help morale."⁵¹ The frequently traumatized, alcoholic and drug-addicted war returnees also encountered a glaring lack of military leadership in Neu-Ulm. The

few officers available were simply overwhelmed by the radical political attitudes, especially those of the Black Power movement, incited by a German-American underground press (*Voice of the Lumpen*, VOL).⁵² Commanding Officers were occasionally greeted with the Black Panther's power check or a hearty *Fuck the Army!* (FTA) greeting. As a



The Voice of the Lumpen 1,4 (1971) (CC BY-NC 4.0)

distinguishing feature, at least after duty hours, quite a few black GIs had a voluminous Afro hairstyle or wore a Black Panther Party's (BPP) black beret. The Neu-Ulm garrison had long been aware of the demands of the peace movement for nuclear disarmament and an end to the "barbarism

⁵² On the socialist agitational magazine *Voice of the Lumpen*, cf. M. HÖHN, "The Black Panther Solidarity Committees and the Voice of the Lumpen," in: *German Studies Review* 31,1 (2008), pp. 133-154. For a time, Martin Walser (born 1927) was also the responsible editor of VOL, but he probably only knew Ulm/Neu-Ulm through his frequent transfers at Ulm's main train station

⁵⁰ Cit. according to *ibid.*, page 166

⁵¹ Cit. according to *ibid.*, page 144.

of wars".⁵³ In short, the social conflicts in the U.S. undermined the morale of the American (combat) units stationed in Germany.



You Can't Jail Away the Revolution!, *Voice of the Lumpen* 1,6 (1971) (CC BY-NC 4.0)

GIs in Neu-Ulm were very well informed about events in the United States. In response to the Lamar Riots in South Carolina in early March 1970, a soldier from the Neu-Ulm garrison expressed his displeasure in a letter to the editor about the petty-bourgeois and aggressive rhetoric of some conservative politicians, especially in the American Southern states. He pointed out emphatically, that the rejection of desegregation in Southern schools only prolonged and intensified the existing racial conflict “*The detrimental psychological effect caused by such racial confrontations may very well foster the same prejudices in the generations*

⁵³ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from March 23.,1970. Cited from a reader's letter from an American soldier stationed in Neu-Ulm.

to come that are plaguing us today.”⁵⁴ In Neu Ulm, such observations were also intermingled with suggestions for improvements regarding the structural and technical condition of the now aging barracks buildings and recurring complaints about the *Off-Limits* problem.

In the summer of 1970, the murder of a taxi driver also strained German-American relations. After a pub crawl in Neu-Ulm, an American soldier took a taxi back to Wiley Barracks. The drunken GI stabbed the cab driver in the neck. The cab driver retaliated with a shot from the pistol he carried as a precaution. Both men died that same night. During the same period, a crazed gunman with two rifles and about a hundred rounds of ammunition had barricaded himself in a van parked on the American barracks grounds and opened fire on an officer.⁵⁵ Risking his life, an unarmed military policeman was finally able to persuade the soldier (“*a deranged enlisted man*”) to surrender.⁵⁶ On Aug. 20, 1970, three GIs, ages 18 to 21, set fire to several five-ton trucks in their unit's motor pool at Willey Barracks. In late November 1970, *The New York Times* published an article by Thomas A. Johnson (1928-2008) on its title page under the headline *G.I.'s in Germany: Black Is Bitter*. The report reflected the startling findings of a three-week investigation by a White House and Pentagon commission regarding “*racial disorders among American soldiers in West Germany.*”⁵⁷ To avoid further fueling the simmering racial conflict, editors of the troop magazine S&S were instructed to limit their coverage of “*racial stories*”.⁵⁸ The US Army was more or less helpless in the face of the problems. At Fort Black Jack in the southeast of (Hettingen-)Inneringen (county of Sigmaringen), where the nuclear warheads of the Neu-Ulm Pershing units were stored, there was another deadly incident in the late evening of

⁵⁴ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from March 30, 1970.

⁵⁵ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) From June 14.,1971.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* In June, 1971, the Military Policeman was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

⁵⁷ *The New York Times* from November 23, 1970.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

October 4, 1970. “A black soldier was killed [...] by a white noncom while the soldier held a loaded pistol on two white officers.”⁵⁹ Ralph Edward Hughes (1950-1970) called Flip, a black GI stationed at Wiley Barracks, was returning to the fort in a heavily intoxicated state after visiting a tavern in Inneringen when he was surprised by an alarm. A pistol and ammunition had been stolen from the armory. Hastily, a rolling squad was assembled “to pick up everyone who was blowing off steam in the village.”⁶⁰ Hughes, in turn, removed a pistol from the chamber and waved it around the local EM Club. A major and a lieutenant were notified and went to confront the *Pershing Missileman*. In response, the soldier forced the two officers to leave the fort at gunpoint. After all three had returned a short time later through one of the many holes in the fence, Hughes was shot by a white comrade with a well-aimed shot to the neck.⁶¹ Apparently Hughes had threatened the two officers with the words “Okay, I’m going to kill you right here”.⁶²

To investigate the full extent of discrimination, anger and militancy inside and outside American barracks, the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People* (NAACP) decided to send a team to Europe and Germany in mid-December 1970. Meanwhile, in the U.S. garrison in Augsburg, several heavy pistols disappeared from the armory, and the Administrative Court in Ansbach, in a sensational ruling for human rights violations (“*racial persecution*”), granted political asylum in the Federal Republic to a deserted colored U.S. soldier and musician.⁶³ Finally, the findings of the U.S. Department of Defense commission found their way into local press coverage: “U.S. soldiers of color are bitter. Pentagon: Especially in the Federal

Republic on the verge of acts of violence.”⁶⁴

Despite, or perhaps because of, the relatively frequent deployment of units, the situation threatened to escalate even in tranquil Neu-Ulm. In the meantime, just how thin-skinned and tense, indeed downright angry, the situation had become was illustrated by a letter to the editor in S&S from an apparently black captain stationed in Neu-Ulm at the end of March 1971: “It is common knowledge that minority group frustrations have kindled into overt violence in more than one European-based American military unit”⁶⁵ The letter to the editor expressed all the more surprise at the media’s continued insensitive to sensational reporting. “However, there continues to be a subtle element in our communications media that appears to enjoy prolonging this racial agony. I fear that S&S itself [...] is not blameless in this area.”⁶⁶ Specifically, however, he criticized what he considered to be the inappropriate typography (!) of an already poorly researched article in S&S about the (alleged) eviction of a black family from their apartment in the American Fort Campbell (Kentucky). Due to an unusual black border and the use of boldface, the victim narrative transported in this article received all too much prominence and controversy. “Do we want our black brothers to be sure and read this so their legitimate frustration may be egged on one notch further? Or is it for the benefit of the ‘rednecks’, and there are still plenty of those around, who will see the over another emotion-laden ‘black suppression’ story?”⁶⁷

Due to a variety of other problems - general noise pollution, use of the Illerholz by members of the U.S. Army (Rod and Gun Club), etc. - Neu-Ulm’s new community leader Colonel Edwin Y. Arnold at least felt compelled at the beginning of April 1971 to reactivate the German-American Advisory Committee, which had been dormant for decades. Scuffles and brawls between white and black U.S.

59 Ibid.

60 *The Overseas Weekly* from October 11, 1970, p. 3.

61 See *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from October 6, 1970 and from October 8, 1970.

62 *The Overseas Weekly* from October 11, 1970, p. 3.

63 H. HANNOVER, “Judgment of the Ansbach Administrative Court from December 15, 1970”, in: *Kritische Justiz* 4,1 (1971), pages 111-118, page 115. see *The New York Times* from December 18, 1970.

64 *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* from December 19, 1970.

65 *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from March 25, 1971.

66 Ibid.

67 Ibid.

soldiers had also increased significantly since the beginning of the year. As a result, black soldiers in particular were increasingly denied access to the taverns and pubs of Ulm and Neu-Ulm. Staying in the vicinity of the corresponding pubs in downtown Ulm and Neu-Ulm was not very advisable, at least during the evening and night hours. The daughters of all classes were cautioned by devoted parents to particularly avoid the parks. At least for (young) women, schoolgirls, white-collar workers and blue-collar workers, the banks of the Danube and the Glacis, now attractive, inviting and, above all, safe places for leisure, developed into veritable no-go areas, similar to Starkfeld and the area around the border camp and the foreigners' camp in the post-war period.

In the meantime, the NAACP "investigating team" had submitted its report to the U.S. Department of Defense.⁶⁸ According to the report, black GIs in Germany suffered most from discrimination in the housing market. "*Discrimination in housing [...] more than any other problem caused blacks to regard Germany as an unfriendly country and to wonder aloud why they should be stationed there.*"⁶⁹

The local black community then organized itself according to American principles. From time to time, larger groups of black activists gathered on the Schwal. Not without reason, the question soon arose: "*Black Power in Neu-Ulm?*"⁷⁰

On May 1, 1971, an American tear gas grenade exploded in the beer tent of the Neu-Ulm folk festival. At around 10 p.m., one or more unknown persons had slit open the tarpaulin of the tent and thrown a live gas grenade about 50 meters into the interior of the tent. Within a very short time, the gas spread throughout the tent. Almost 3,500 visitors rushed into the open air, some of them tearing their jackets and shirts in the process. Quite a few had to vomit, and about 50 people temporarily lost consciousness. At the same time, hundreds of beer mugs were stolen. Around

midnight, serious abuse occurred in the vicinity of the folk festival - apparently committed by American soldiers. The security situation in Neu-Ulm was subsequently a topic of discussion in the city council, the Bavarian state parliament and the state chancellery. Unimpressed by this, vandalism to property, thefts, drug offences, assaults, bodily harm and rapes committed by Americans increased. In hindsight, it wasn't possible to determine whether the (unsuccessful) bomb attack on the Bayernhalle in Nersingen on May 23 was also the work of frustrated GIs.

On June 9, 1971, representatives of the U.S. Army, the cities of Ulm and Neu-Ulm, the local police, and the Bundeswehr finally met for an informal meeting. The *Off-Limits* problem was also discussed. Several bars and discotheques in Ulm



Senior Mayor, Dietrich Lang
(StadtA Neu-Ulm)

and Neu-Ulm are said to have repeatedly denied access to primarily black GIs. The mayor of Neu-Ulm, Dr. Dietrich Lang (1917-2007), who was later awarded the *Outstanding Civilian Service Award* for his efforts to promote peaceful and constructive German-American relations, was of the opinion that this was in no way a "racial problem" and that there was no reason to take special measures.⁷¹ Colonel Arnold also considered the problem secondary and wanted to put it on the back burner "*until a specific or 'grave' problem occurs*" - a disastrous misjudgment⁷²

The publication of parts of the Pentagon Papers (= *Report of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Vietnam Task Force*) in mid-June 1971 outraged the world, convicted the U.S. government of lying and confirmed the ambitions of the peace movement. The papers, commissioned by the Department of

68 *The New York Times* from April 23, 1971.

69 *Ibid.*

70 *Südwest Presse* from May 8, 1971.

71 StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11401.

72 *Ibid.*

Defense, documented on nearly 7,000 pages, “*in cold, bureaucratic language, how the United States got itself mired in a long, costly war in a small Southeast Asian country of questionable strategic importance.*”⁷³ From this point on, it was simply impossible for the military and political leadership to continue to justify the mission in Vietnam. From that moment on, the GIs served in the constant expectation or hope that they would be able to return to the United States. Any interference with their living conditions provoked a strong reaction, which could count on broad public approval and resonance - at least in the United States. In Neu-Ulm, however, the GIs continued to be perceived predominantly as foreign objects. The black GIs suffered particularly from a perceived lack of recognition.

At a special meeting of the German-American Advisory Committee held in Neu-Ulm’s city hall on August 20, 1971, a representative of the garrison’s approximately 400 black U.S. soldiers threatened to set the city on fire without further ado if the black GIs’ demands for equal access to local business and dance halls, especially on the left bank, i.e. in Ulm,



Mayor Heinrich Heiner Metzger
(StadtA Neu-Ulm)

were not met (see above). This threat, which was meant quite seriously but was nevertheless highly exaggerated, marked the verbal and historical low point in relations between Little America and the city or rather the city’s population. Neither the two mayors Lang and Dr. h.c. Theodor Pfizer (1904-1992), nor Neu-Ulm’s mayor Heiner Metzger (1921-1997)

(SPD) and the representatives of the hospitality industry and the police who were present, however, seemed to have been impressed by such statements. After all, Metzger pointed out to the American officers present as well as to the three sergeants

of the Black Community to desist from wanting to “*solve their home-made racial problems in Germany [...]..*”⁷⁴

It was not until September 30, 1971, when an inspector of the Neu-Ulm criminal investigation department was brutally beaten and severely injured by several black GIs in Maximilianstrasse, and the following October 2, when two uniformed police officers, after pursuing two (black) suspects of a robbery at a gas station in the Memminger Straße in the grounds of Wiley Barracks, were confronted with massive resistance and death threats, that the Neu-Ulmer Garrison Commander, in coordination with the corps commander, instigated the implementation of appropriate safety measures.

In particular, the number of American military police officers was to be increased from less than 20 to 32 and *Courtesy Patrols* (= confidence-building American officer and noncommissioned officer patrols in uniform in public) were to be reintroduced. “*Whether these assaults [...] indicate a ‘movement’ among U.S. soldiers, especially those of color,*” said an editor of the *Südwest Presse*, “*no one dares to say. It is also unclear whether they are connected with the transfer of troops from Augsburg to Ulm.*”⁷⁵

Whether it was a genuine movement or merely more or less spontaneous outbursts by a minority of violence-prone GIs, the violence did not subside for the time being. “*Colored U.S. soldiers in civilian clothes*” were repeatedly observed “*carrying dog whips and batons in a provocative manner [in public]*”⁷⁶ in the fall of 1971, according to the findings of the Neu-Ulm police department. On the night of October 17-18, another police officer was injured whilst arresting a group of rioting (white and black) soldiers in downtown Neu-Ulm. The omens were not good for the garrisons upcoming 20th anniversary. Even relativizing and romanticizing retrospectives and references (*Like in the Wild West*) to the by no means harmless

74 StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11401.

75 *Südwest Presse* from October 5, 1971.

76 StadtA, Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 10709 A..

confrontations and sexual assaults of the 1950s and 1960s or the establishment of a German-American contact club did not help. Especially as the worst was yet to come. Although USAREUR under its new commander-in-chief, 4-star General Michael S. Davison (1917-2006), made noticeable efforts to get its problems under control, the state of the Seventh Army still continued to be deplorable. This was pointed out again in an impressive article in the New York Times in late November 1971. General Davison, later awarded a Medal of Merit by the NAACP for his services to racial integration, summed up the conditions within the armed forces in the following rather clear words: “It was a terrible price, you know, we had to pay here in Europe for the support of Vietnam [...] Europe was used as a rotation base. Company commanders were turning over every three months. [...] Who really gives a damn under those conditions?”⁷⁷

Davison did, after all, set some processes in motion. In particular, the integrity of the military justice system was subjected to rigorous scrutiny. In addition, communication was to be improved both internally between ethnic groups and between Americans and Germans outside the barracks. “*In most cases it’s a lack of communication,*” said a black NCO in Kaiserslautern, describing the many problems. “*Whether it’s a black-and-white thing or a German-American thing, we try to close the communication gap.*”⁷⁸ However, persuasion alone was not enough to solve the structural problems of the Seventh Army. Especially since many, mainly white, (junior) officers apparently did not comprehend or were even opposed to efforts to improve the situation. At the end of January 1972, a black lance corporal (private first class) from Neu-Ulm drew attention to this. Under the heading Racial Attitudes, he had written an impassioned letter to the editor of the S&S. “*There is quite a great number (thousands) of officers [...] who have turned a deaf ear toward trying to improve racial*

harmony within our ranks.”⁷⁹ The dislike and hatred of white GIs for their black comrades prevailing in the United States would similarly poison coexistence in Europe. In general, and with little confidence or resignation, he concluded: “*Whites in general have been lacking in their capacity to understand the blacks in general.*”⁸⁰

In the spring of 1972, the verdict in the trial of civil rights activist, black feminist and socialist Angela Davis (born 1944) was imminent. The worldwide campaign of solidarity and support had also reached Ulm. On May 4, at the invitation of several Ulm youth associations, a member of the Frankfurt Angela Davis Solidarity Committee, later publisher Lothar Menne (born in 1944), spoke in the Schuhhaussaal about developments in the trial so far. The case uniquely and symbolically combined a whole range of contemporary political (identity) questions and discourse formations. “*Complex issues of racism, communism, the woman’s role in society, academic freedom, the War in Vietnam, were involved in her case.*”⁸¹ After having been in pre-trial detention for more than a year under partly precarious circumstances, Angela Davis had been released on bail at the end of February 1972. On the basis of a constitutionally questionable paragraph of the California Penal Code, she was accused of kidnapping with hostage-taking, murder, and finally conspiracy to commit a crime. In early June 1972, Davis was acquitted of all three charges by the twelve-member non-black jury. Her supporters in America and the rest of the world were convinced: “**POWER OF THE PEOPLE SET ANGELA FREE!**”⁸² Undoubtedly, the tireless agitation and reporting of the liberation committees and the world press, not least in West Germany and especially in East Germany (GDR), had contributed to forming

⁷⁹ THE STARS AND STRIPES (EUROPA) FROM JANUARY 27, 1972.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ B. APTHEKER, *The Morning Breaks. The Trial of Angela Davis*, Ithaca and London (at first 1975) 1999, page 113

⁸² Ibid. S. 275. Emphasis in the original. Aptheker’s blatantly tendentious, partisan study is both a contemporary witness account and a telling testimony to the traction and effectiveness of the campaign

⁷⁷ *The New York Times* from November 29, 1971

⁷⁸ Ibid.

public opinion. Thousands of letters reached Angela Davis during her imprisonment, including many from the war front in Vietnam and possibly also from Neu-Ulm.⁸³ The Angela Davis case was also the big Litmus test for the relationship between the black GI's and the German population "*Solidarity with Angela Davis was thus seen as an indicator of a true antifascist and antiracist mindset.*"⁸⁴ The Federal Republic, however, remained primarily preoccupied with itself. The party-political dispute over Ostpolitik put West German postwar society to the test and led to the first constructive vote of no confidence in the young democracy. Some terrorist groups, especially radical left-wing ones, such as the Red Army Faction (RAF), thought they could exploit the unusual politicization and polarization of society for their own purposes. Within the framework of its concept of the urban guerrilla, the RAF attempted to create conditions similar to civil war. The so-called May Offensive of the left-wing terrorists swept West Germany in 1972 with a wave of inhumane (and deadly) violence and was to trigger a veritable avalanche of armed resistance. However, the RAF's unrealistic ideas were largely rejected even by the extreme left. Nevertheless, the RAF may also have had contacts in Neu-Ulm. There were conspiratorial premises and apartments of the extreme left-wing scene, for example at Brückenstraße 3 in Neu-Ulm. The stolen American license plates, which were used in the attack on the USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg at the end of May 1972, came from the vehicles of two GIs

⁸³ Das *National United Committee to Free Angela Davis* collected letters and documents from all over the world. These can be viewed under the reference M0262 in the *Special Collections & University Archives* department of the Stanford University Libraries. For Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Series 8.2 Germany (East & West) would probably come into question. However, the 13 cartons each containing over 1,000 sheets are not archivally indexed and would have to be reviewed on site. According to a written communication from Tim Noakes, Head of Public Services of the Department of Special Collections dated 28. October 2021, the majority of the letters are likely to have been "letters written from 2nd graders, all copying a template the teacher provided".

⁸⁴ B. WALDSCHMIDT-NELSON, "We Shall Overcome: The Impact of the African American Freedom Struggle on Race Relations and Social Protest in Germany after World War II, in: G. Kosc u.a. (Hgg.), *The Transatlantic Sixties: Europe and the United States in the Countercultural Decade* (= Amerika: Kultur – Geschichte – Politik Band 4), Bielefeld 2013, S. 66-97, S. 84.

stationed in Neu-Ulm.⁸⁵ The state authorities were on alert and the tension was palpable everywhere. In this "*climate of excessive reactions*" the saddest chapter of German-American relations began in Ulm and Neu-Ulm.⁸⁶

The pent-up boredom, lack of prospects, frustration and anger of a not inconsiderable part of the Neu-Ulm U.S. garrison culminated in the summer of 1972 in a series of brawls, brutal robberies, arsons, stabbings and extreme sexual violence against young women. The aggression was directed almost exclusively against the German civilian population. Drug offenses and alcohol excesses were also commonplace within the barracks. On August 14, 1972, apparently due to the announcement of an unwelcome new redeployment, there was a medium-scale riot at Wiley Barracks. A (white) battalion commander was beaten up and several trash containers and wood piles were set on fire. The Neu-Ulm fire department, which was called in, was prevented from extinguishing the fire, in part by the use of brute force. Head of operations Walter Dzierson was attacked with an iron bar and had to be treated in hospital for several weeks. Mayor Lang immediately ordered the Neu-Ulm fire department to enter the garrison area only on his personal instructions. After all, this was not the first case of arson in the barracks. The American fire brigades had been disbanded on July 1. At the end of July, the Neu-Ulm fire department made this their theme for the Ulm Nabada. Their boat was decorated with the slogan 'The dollar is getting scarce US fire department is disbanding'. Incidentally, the extent to which discrimination and everyday racism inside and outside the Neu-Ulm barracks can be attributed to the outbreak of violence remains to be seen. According to the official version, "*only white soldiers were involved*" in the incidents.⁸⁷ The Neu-Ulm criminal police

⁸⁵ Vgl. *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from May 28, 1972. For the general history of the RAF, refer again to S. AUST, *Der Baader-Meinhof-Komplex*, Munich (initially 1985) 2020.

⁸⁶ U. HERBERT, *Geschichte Deutschlands im 20. Jahrhundert*, München (zuerst 2014) 2017, S. 863.

⁸⁷ *Neu-Ulmer Zeitung* v. 17.08.1972. Vgl. auch *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) v. 16.08.1972.

announced: “*The ruckus had nothing to do with the usual trouble, which could be termed Black Power or Vietnam.*”⁸⁸ Later, the matter was played down by the U.S. Army as being an unfortunate, meaningless incident caused by off-duty hotheads. However, a lot of people in Ulm and Neu-Ulm had had enough. Regardless of the fact that almost only white soldiers had been involved in this incident and that there had been no political or (anti-)racist motives, the Germans’ suspicion was mainly directed at black GIs. For example, a Neu-Ulm businesswoman from the upper Reuttier Strasse, badly affected by recent shoplifting, openly declared that she “*was afraid of colored people. [...] When we catch a shoplifter, he is incredibly aggressive. When black people come into the store, I’m afraid.*”⁸⁹

Immediately after August 14, Ludwig Fellermaier (1930-1996), a former Neu-Ulm city councilor (1960-1966) and SPD member of the Bundestag who grew up with his aunt in Ludwigsfelder Postweg, used question time in the Bundestag to confront the government about the incident. Among other things, Fellermaier wanted to know what conclusions the federal government would “*draw from incidents like the one in the U.S. barracks in Neu-Ulm [where] firefighters had not only been prevented from fighting the fire, but had also been physically attacked [sic]?*”⁹⁰ The German government also saw “*the incidents that occurred during firefighting at the U.S. barracks in Neu-Ulm as a regrettable isolated case [...]*”⁹¹

The member of the Bundestag for the Neu-Ulm constituency (direct mandate), the inscrutable and notorious Leo Wagner (CSU) (1919-2006) from Günzburg, addressed a letter dated August 25 directly to the Chancellor’s Office. Head of the Chancellor’s Office Horst Ehmke (SPD) (1927-2017) informed the handsome Leo in mid-October that Chancellor Willy Brandt (SPD) (1913-1992) was

convinced “*that such matters [...] must be dealt with vigorously in the interest of German-American relations. [...]. Not least for this reason*” had Brandt held “*an earnest discussion with General Davison on August 15, 1972.*”⁹² Apparently chancellor Willy Brandt had taken a personal interest in the incidents at Neu-Ulm.

After two 17 and 18 year-old girls had been brutally abused and raped by ten to fifteen, almost without exception black, GIs on the Wilhelmshöhe in Ulm on August 27, Ulm’s new mayor Dr. Hans Lorensen (1916-1989), after consultation with the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of the Interior, announced the deployment of massive police forces - at least on the left bank of the Danube. The head of the Ulm criminal police publicly described the acts as “*not only brutal, but downright bestial*”.⁹³ The citizens of both towns were outraged. Particularly as the public relations work of the US-Army left much to be desired. Even Fellermaier, a member of the state parliament, waited several weeks in vain for a reply from General Davison.

In Neu-Ulm the effort of the US-army to stabilize the troop’s moral failed miserably. The continued negative headlines in the local press finally lead to an article in the October 1, 1972 edition of the SPIEGEL, which received nationwide attention, under the headline *Breaking out of the Ghetto*.⁹⁴ In the meantime, the charged atmosphere in the barracks had also been picked up by a local publication of the RITA movement. RITA was short for *Resistance Inside the Army* and had served as the slogan of the antiwar movement within the American armed forces since 1967. Titled *The Wiley Word. A Newspaper for GI’s, and their German Friends*, later just *The Word*, the magazine provided information about glaring injustices and disproportionate treatment within the Neu-Ulm garrison. For example, on the visit to Wiley Barracks on November 16, 1972, by 4-star General Creighton W. Abrams (1914-1974), who

88 *Südwest Presse* v. 16.08.1972.

89 *Südwest Presse* v. 17.08.1972.

90 *Question time August 1972*, German Bundestag – printed document VI/3816, page 57

91 *Ibid.*, page 58.

92 The letter documented StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 10709 A.

93 *Südwest Presse* from August 28, 1972

94 See *Der Spiegel* from October 1, 1972.

shortly before had been appointed Chief of Staff (CSA), several mostly black and peace-minded enlisted men were sent to a fake party at the QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) site on the grounds of the former Army Ammunition Plant near (Nersingen-) Straß, “in order to keep their valid gripes out in the woods, away from the ears of General Abrams. Things worked out very well for both sides: the lifers were spared the embarrassment of being exposed in their dirty dealings, while the ‘detail’ enjoyed a few festive hours in the country getting stoned at the Government’s expense.”⁹⁵ The General, after all, should not be troubled by too intimate a knowledge of actual conditions in Neu-Ulm (“*Home Away From Home, Wiley Barracks*”).⁹⁶

USAREUR did promise to create a degree of discipline among the units stationed in Germany that would ensure the normalization of relations, at least between Germans and Americans. The Neu-Ulm site administration, however, continued to have considerable difficulty in coming to grips with the lingering problems in the fall and winter of 1972. While the level of physical and sexual violence had indeed normalized, the now reactivated American firefighting unit was called to more than 20 fires between September and December 1972, primarily in Wiley South.

As a rule, firefighting was not a major challenge for the garrison fire department. However, when in the early morning hours of December 10 in Wiley South the roof of a barracks with more than 150 soldiers was ablaze and a real danger to human life had to be assumed, the Neu-Ulm fire department was called to help. After consultation with the Neu-Ulm mayor, about 80 men arrived at the scene of the fire after a delay of 20 minutes. Three hours later, the fire was under control. Three soldiers were saved from certain death by the Neu-Ulm fire brigade.

⁹⁷ Once again, the city was in the international spotlight: “*Barracks Burns in Germany*,” headlined

the Associated Press (AP) news agency.⁹⁸ Due to pressure from the peace movement combined with the ongoing conflicts within the American armed forces, the U.S. and its re-elected President Richard Nixon (1913-1994) were finally forced to sign the Paris Agreement on January 27, 1973.

Although the Vietnam War had ended, the inability or unwillingness to understand each other was mutual and sensitive overreactions continued to determine the relationship of black GIs to their white comrades and to a large part of the German civilian population. “*Failure to recognize cultural differences - and the language barrier - adds to racial friction. ‘Blacks hear Germans call them negro and equate it with nigger,*” a Stuttgart NAACP official said in a March 1973 S&S interview.⁹⁹ How low the linguistic moral bar was set for the German population is evident by the following quotes: “*Neger is a legitimate German word for Negro - there’s no negative connotation to it.*”¹⁰⁰ Although the NAACP and the U.S.

Army intensified their cooperation and the U.S. State Department also made efforts to harmonize German-American relations in, for example, the context of the International Brotherhood Week 1973 in Augsburg City Hall, socio-political and identity-political issues soon receded into the background in the fall of 1973 (oil price shock).

In his booklet published in 2017, amateur historian Joachim Lenk (born 1962) showed that on the Open Day during the German-American Friendship Weeks from May 12 to 19 1974 it was possible to view “*a Pershing I rocket from up close for the fourth time*”.¹⁰¹ However, the deployment - not far from the site church (Wiley Chapel) - of the ballistic infernal machine stationed in Neu-Ulm since 1968 did not yet lead to any protests.

⁹⁸ *The New York Times* from December 11, 1972. See also *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from December 12, 1972 and from December 14, 1972.

⁹⁹ *The Stars and Stripes* (Europa) from March 16, 1973.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁰¹ LENK 2017, as note 5, page 71. See also StadtA Neu-Ulm, Mangold collection.

⁹⁵ *The Wiley Word* 1,3 (November 1972), page 1.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁹⁷ See LENK 2017, as note 5, page 70



A NEWSPAPER FOR GI'S, CIVILIANS, AND THEIR GERMAN FRIENDS
Vol. 1, No. 3 - November 1972

When it became commonly known that General Abrams was dropping down in our midst for a look-n-see, the 81st Field Arty. became a hotbed of activity which amounted to nothing more than the mass cover-up of the recent incidents and problems at Wiley which motivated someone to send Abrams here in the first place. He definitely wasn't here to be social. The Cover-Your-Ass Award is hereby presented to all the lifers who did such a fine job of hiding the truth in order to make the General's visit 'short & sweet', without any audible repercussions. Here is a view of the clever tactics that made the presentation of the Cover-Your-Ass Award possible. "Temporary removal of personnel who might be inclined to voice grievances in the General's presence", or, "Thanks, Crandall, for one Hell of a party at Strass."

On the fateful day that marked General Abrams arrival, a select few of Pershing's Finest were chosen to attend a secret Battalion sponsored party at a famous Pershing missile site. The men, numbering more than 50, were herded into a 36-passenger bus and driven to Strass. For official purposes, the group was told they had been detailed to police up some old barbed wire, which, after years of being at Strass, suddenly was a problem and had to be removed. Soon after the bus reached its destination, it became evident that wire was not the issue at all. The whole idea was to get those men off post in order to keep their valid gripes out in the woods, away from the ears of General Abrams. Things worked out very well for both sides: the lifers were spared the embarrassment of being exposed in their dirty dealings, while the "detail" enjoyed a few festive hours in the country getting stoned at the Government's expense.

THE CULTURAL CORNER: The big day has come and passed. A LTC Crandall Production of "Meet the Chief of Staff" went off like the well planned show it was. In just one week, we saw our beloved Wiley Barracks undergo a magnificent change from "Passing" to "Elegantly Mediocre". From start to finish, it was a truly amazing exhibition. Officers and NCO's performed like the seasoned vets they are. A special thanks goes out to all the stagehands, (E-1's - E-5's) who spent many long hours painting buildings, fences, peace signs and diligently scrubbing up wax layed only days before. Unfortunately most of the stagehands were unable to attend the findle. "O" Battery was unexpectedly called the field. This was very unfortunate since they had to miss the entire show. Many other stagehands were unable to attend due to the fact that a party had been scheduled for them at Strass. From what I understand, the party was quite a success. Yes, indeed, the whole day proved to be a spectacle.

It is assuring to know that General Abrams will take back with him a thorough understanding of what few problems exist in our "Home Away From Home, Wiley Barracks". For those of you who were unable to attend, I can only say you wouldn't have believed it. It will be interesting to see if LTC Crandall Productions can ever prepare a spectacle of equal proportions. Congratulations for a job well done! -TC-

TWO CASES OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

DAVID MACCABBELL-November 10 started out to be a normal day for Dave and his wife. Little did they know that before the day was over Dave would be several miles away. Only the day before it was found that on November 16, General Abrams would be paying 1/81st a visit. Immediately things began to happen. The traditional "Hurry Up And Wait" Army, became the "You Got 15 Minutes to Pack" Army. On the afternoon of Nov. 10, David was at his new duty station in Göppingen. Before General Abrams was to set foot on Wiley Barracks many GI's found themselves being hurried off to some out of the way duty station. Just ask Morris Ecklund or Mark Husted, if you can find them. This action in Dave's case was illegal. As many of you know, Dave is awaiting final decision on his application for discharge as a conscientious objector. Until a decision is reached, the applicant is to be retained in his unit. This is clearly spelled out in AR 635-20. Evidently this particular portion of the AR was overlooked, but don't be surprised to see Dave around shortly because I'm sure someone will miraculously discover the unfortunate mistake, Just another example of The Uniform Code Of Military Justice.

TRACY COFFEY- Unfortunately Tracy Coffey was again in the wrong place at the wrong time. Where was the "You Got 15 Minutes" Army when you were needed most? Since July 25, 1972, Tracy has been waiting a final decision on his conscientious objection application. After completely wasting about five weeks, Tracy's application was finally forwarded from battalion on September 28, 1972. Supposedly this application is supposed to go straight to DA. On November 15th, Tracy's application still was not in DA! Of course one can't expect miracles, but 48 days later it seems that his application would have at least reached DA. It will probably turn out that Tracy's application was lost. Tracy wasn't hustled off because he has caused the lifers no trouble. He saw no future in trying to fight the system when the odds were stacked so heavily against him. Every step he took was unquestionably legal. He tried to work within the regulations. Four months later his patience has worn very thin. Maybe one day Tracy will just pack up and leave, without even asking.

ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION?

On November 18, 1972 a large group of Germans will hold a demonstration to show their concern for GI's. At 1430 the Germans will start their demonstration at the Neu-Ulm Rathaus. From there they will march to the gate of Wiley Barracks. They should arrive about 1500. At the gate of Wiley Barracks several speeches will be delivered. The demonstration will be over at 1600. This demonstration has been registered with the local authorities, and will be both legal and peaceful. Who are these people? They are people who perhaps have nothing else in common except a concern for their American friends. They are people who want you to enjoy your stay in their country. They know you have many problems adjusting to a military life in a foreign country. They are doing this for you in hopes that they can help you have a nice time. Unfortunately Army regulations prohibit you from participating in demonstrations against the Army. I strongly suggest that all GI's take special precautions to insure that they do not accidentally become involved in this demonstration! The Army will not hesitate to burn you. The Germans will come as your friend, let us insure that when they go home we have not betrayed them.

For P E A C E, F R I E N D S H I P, and F R E E D O M- Spread THE WORD

THIS IS YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY! IT CANNOT BE TAKEN FROM YOU! IF ANY-ONE TRIES, DEMAND A RECEIPT!!!! (AR381-135)

Rita Contact c/o Cornelia Reichart, 79 Ulm, Blumenscheinweg 14

THE WORD

FEBRUARY 1973

VOL. 2
No. 1

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DISCARD
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c/o
Cornelia Reichart
79 Ulm/Donau
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THE CLUB IN THE 1970'S AND 80'S

The notorious pubs and dance cafés in the centers of Ulm and especially Neu-Ulm, such as the *Go Down* in the Maximilianstrasse 42 (formerly *Maxim* and from 1968 to 1972 *Blow Up*) or the *Tenne* (later Pils Inn, nowadays *Riverside*) in the Donaustraße 15 (Neu-Ulm) remained popular meeting places for the GIs. Consequently, and fairly regularly, there were clashes between (black and white) American soldiers, but also between Americans, Germans and the Turkish and Yugoslavian guest workers. The latter suffered disproportionately from the changes in the economy.

Changes in society, especially those involving the values, moral standards and prestige of Western societies, i.e. the great processes of liberalization and pluralization, became manifest from the mid-seventies and society became much less reserved, particularly towards the black soldiers of the Neu-Ulm U.S. garrison. In the context of the rather diffuse spectrum of the New Social Movements and a differentiating youth culture, the newly awakened interest in the GIs developed an increased dynamism in the adventure of German-American coexistence. However, on both sides it was still only a minority that actively sought contact and understanding.

At this point, a short story is worth mentioning, which Carlheinz Gern (born 1952), nowadays part of the management of the Ulm radio station DONAU 3 FM, has associated with the Wiley Club since his childhood. In the early 1960s, as a boy of about ten, he watched an American tank crew lose a helmet outside his front door on the Münchner Straße. Gern picked up the helmet, cycled to the Wiley Barracks in Neu-Ulm and was rewarded for his good behavior with plenty of Coke on ice at the EM Club there. He also remembers the wintry

rides through the brightly lit, snow-covered Vorfeld decorated for Christmas. In his early years as an event organizer, Gern occasionally hired American bands who were appearing at the Wiley EM Club. In 1972/73, for example, he booked the all-girl band *Mothertucker* for the region - albeit under the less irritating name *Eve*.¹⁰²

Since the early 1970s, the Danube meadows in front of Ulm's Metzgerturnm have been used as a place to meet and socialize in the open air, much to the chagrin of some intolerant walkers and die-hards. The area between Fischerplätzle, the Danube and the Metzgerturnm soon became known as the Shitwiese. Not only hashish was smoked and traded here, especially in the evening hours, but sometimes also harder drugs were dealt.¹⁰³ In 1973, up to 20 percent of the enlisted men (and officers) of the Neu-Ulm-based 1st Battalion of the 81st Field Artillery Regiment, i.e., a nuclear Pershing unit, were said to have used drugs regularly.¹⁰⁴ In the mid-1970s, it was estimated that up to 80 percent of the heroin consumed in Ulm and Neu-Ulm came from Wiley Barracks. Against this background the Neu-Ulm battalion's internal motto, Pershing's Finest, took on an even stranger ring. Nevertheless, it was easy, especially for young people, to make acquaintances with white and especially black GIs on the Shitwiese or at the Ludwigsfeld lakes. People met by chance, got to know each other, arranged to meet, and quite a few young people were invited to the Wiley Club. Many people from Ulm and Neu-Ulm still vividly remember the summer of the century in 1976.

¹⁰² Personal communication from Carlheinz Gern, Ulm.

¹⁰³ This theme even made it onto prime time German television. The "Tatort" episode "*Schöne Belinda*" (SDR, first broadcast on August 31, 1975), which is enriched with a lot of local color and deals with the circumstances of a drug dealer's relationship with the daughter of an Ulm businessman, is considered to be one of the most successful episodes of the series ever, measured in terms of viewer ratings (market share).

¹⁰⁴ According to a report in January 1973, up to 30,000 of the 185,000 Seventh Army soldiers stationed in Germany were thought to have regularly used hashish and other illegal drugs. Cf. *The New York Times* from February 26, 1973. Tellingly, the editorial design of the issue had no inhibitions about placing a large advertisement of a London gin manufacturer alongside the article by the U.S. journalist and author Drew Middleton (1913-1990).



Donau meadow in front of the Metzger-Tower, Ulm, 1974 (SWP, M. Müssig)

On July 1, 1976, “Gertrude Myer” ended her tenure as Public Affairs Officer (PAO) of the U.S. Military Community Activity (USMCA). From February 1957 to July 1976, this woman from Berlin was “the main driving force in fostering German-American relations in Neu Ulm [sic],” often serving as “the primary link between the German and American communities during the trying times of the late fifties and early seventies. Literally thousands of American soldiers and dependents will remember her as the woman [...] that booked hunting trips, helped obtain hunting and fishing licenses, translated just about anything brought to her and of course being at the right place at the right time when a ‘crisis’ arose.”¹⁰⁵ Although the U.S. Army now supported a large number of more or less half-hearted initiatives and efforts to improve the everyday life of GIs inside and outside the garrison as well as the relationship with their local German hosts, in the vast majority of cases there was still a lack of enthusiasm to make use of the services offered for example by the *Wiley Army Education Center* or the Neu-Ulm Contact Club. While the English language skills of German youths and the population as a whole had steadily improved in recent years, especially against the backdrop of cultural Americanization, members of the armed forces generally showed no interest in learning German. Moreover, from 1970 to

¹⁰⁵ *The Donau Republic* from August 6, 1976.

1980, the exchange rate of the dollar to the German mark fell by more than half. Many GIs and their dependents could not or did not want to afford amusements, shopping and excursions now. “It’s getting so that you can hardly afford to go downtown and that being a ‘Barracks Rat’ is the only answer.”¹⁰⁶

Neu-Ulm was not considered a desirable destination by the soldiers anyway. “There is no life in Neu-Ulm [...] it’s basically bad here,” was a typical response to a survey conducted in the fall of 1978 by the site magazine *The Donau*.¹⁰⁷ The majority of respondents gave negative answers to the question “Are you happy with your life in Neu-Ulm?”¹⁰⁸ In 1980 there were still about 3,200 Soldiers “in the Ulm/Neu-Ulm area [...], one-third of them blacks, a higher proportion on average than in other U.S. garrisons in the Federal Republic.”¹⁰⁹ Only a minority lived *On the Economy*, in other words at their own cost outside of the garrison. Members of the U.S. Air Force (USAF), most of whom belonged to the two *Tactical Control Squadrons (TCS)* operating in Türkheim (Geislingen), were privileged compared to their comrades from the Army and were accommodated relatively comfortably in rented apartments in Ulm and especially Neu-Ulm, for example in the Hölderlinstraße in Offenhausen. After the Vietnam War, the entertainment concept from the pre-war period was resumed in a different form at the Wiley NCO/EM Club, as the Wiley

¹⁰⁶ *The Donau* v. 18.11.1978.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.* Since this issue, the title of the site paper was simply *(The) Donau* instead of *(The) Donau Republic*.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ H. SANDER, “Aus Besatzern wurden Partner. Die Geschichte der US-Garrison”, in: *Ulmer Forum* 53 (1980), pages 40-44, page 43.

THE DONAU PAGE 6

Horizon: Neu-Ulm's only rock & roll band

By Len Bell

We had an idea, found the people and formed the band. That's what Andy Bell and Michael Page had to say when asked how the band Horizon came to be.

"We figured there was too much disco and CBW here in Germany, so we decided it's time to get some live rock and roll in the area," said Bell. "And wherever we play, we pack the house," he added.

Horizon, which has been together for less than a year now, hails as the only live rock and roll band between Stuttgart and Munich. The band includes four members who are in the Army and two in the Air Force. "We don't have as much trouble as you would think as far as practicing and playing gigs because most of us are in administrative jobs," said Bell.

Playing their first gig last fall at the Terrace Recreation Center on Wiley Kaserne and being billed as the "Drifters," the band has come a long

way in a short time. The rec center show was free and with mostly borrowed equipment. But now, the members have over DM 10,000 invested in instruments and sound equipment. They have also received their USAREUR registration so they can play any military club in Germany. "We're also playing a number of German parties and are getting offers from German clubs," said Page.

Horizon is slowly breaking away from being a "cover band" and is beginning to play their own songs. "Three of the guys have already written songs and we're presently playing four of them," said Bell. "And we have plans to start working on a few group efforts," he added.

How long will the band last? All of the present members will be staying in Germany till '82 and most are planning to stay longer. "One of the main reasons we want to stay here is because of the easy access to the recording studios," explained Bell.

With an average of ten years of experience between all the members, Horizon seems to be making its mark in the New Ulm area as a real crowd

pleaser playing a variety of old and new rock and roll.

The band has not been without its share of personality clashes. "It's just like any relationship, brother and sister, boyfriend and girlfriend, sooner or later something will happen," said Bell. "But usually it's work out for the best. And the way we work it that everyone has a say in what music goes into a set," he continued.

Other members of Horizon include Rich Hendry on lead guitar, Bill Kanter on drums, Marshall Douglas on keyboards and the newest addition to the group, Jim Collins as engineer and manager. Jim is also the DJ of the station KM Club. Bell handles the bass guitar and Page rounds out the group on rhythm and lead guitar.

Horizon should be given credit for helping to keep rock and roll alive in a time when disco and slow-motion groups are invading the scene. Horizon brings a bit of the U.S. hard rock clubs to Germany where the only way to hear rock and roll is to wait for a big name to come in concert or sit in your room and listen to your tapes.



Andy Bell playing bass guitar with "Down Home Alabama" during a gig at a German F setting party.



Horizon started with a need for a live rock and roll band. (L to R), Michael Page on rhythm guitar, Bill Kanter on drums, Andy Bell on bass guitar, and Rich Hendry on lead guitar.

The Donau, 24.04.1981 (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

Page 10, November 18, 1980, DONAU

Paris Show Band flying high

Story and photo by Edgar Castillo

There's a new music band in the area that is creating some big music scenes, although they haven't been together long. Three months to be exact. They have taken off big in the local area clubs.

They're known as the Paris Show Band, and the recording they did this week that it's made up of all military men.

The jazz rhythm and blues, horn band which has done well to promote and manage themselves is made up of eight members: Steve Air Force and two Army. Jimmie Smith (Vocalist, Trumpet), Danny W. Thompson (Saxophone, Vocals), Special Home (Drums), John Williams (Lead Guitar), Curtis Crabb (Rhythm Guitar), Eric Cropper (Sound Engineer), Hans Muffelard (Photo), and Dave Gierro (Vocalist).

Together the eight men that make up the Paris Show Band have packed in records at the Liberty Club, the Terrace Recreation Center, and both the Wiley and Gumburg NCO Clubs.

Although they say that their affairs and hard work has gotten them to where they are now, they mentioned that it's not for the support that they've been given and the people of the Terrace Center had given them, they wouldn't be able to perform.

As Muffelard and Horn put it, "The flying here is more demanding because we're working for ourselves," says Muffelard. "This is all a stepping stone, all of us have music in us and the only way to get it out, is to play, and play to an audience," explains Horn.

"They mentioned that one of the advantages they hold is that there aren't that many professional bands in Germany playing their type of music."

"This music is very popular right now and much to demand. The German clubs and night clubs have a need for our type of music, and we have already proven that we can draw the crowds to, they've said," says Muffelard.

Although the Paris Show Band plays popular music, by some of the biggest chart makers today, like Rock James and Michael Jackson, they say that they also have their own songs and music, that they have written and composed.

"We have enough material to put together an album, but the thing that kills us



Members of the Paris Show Band (standing in background from left to right) David Morris, Special Home, Steve Air Force, Steve Smith, Jimmie Smith, Danny W. Thompson, Hans Muffelard, John Williams, and Curtis Crabb.

now is time, and the availability of a recording studio," says both.

According to Muffelard, "music material is no problem, all of us can read music and all of us have a feel for writing it."

But, again it's their military duty that gets in the way.

"The weekend is the only time we have to work on the band. During the week after our military jobs, we only have time for practice and getting our show lined up for the following weekend," says Horn.

Smith says that even though they'd like to release that they're a live show band, they don't forget how they got the exposure.

"The response to our band and our type of music is great, we show the crowds when we perform, but if it was not for our friends and the fellow soldiers, well, I don't know what the records would be like."

"It's just great to have their support and encouragement, every beginning band needs that following and support. And, I would say that the soldiers are the hardest critics, if they don't like you, you

might as well not try showing up because they'll boot you off the stage."

The members of the band say that they are currently looking for an agent and someone to get them the contacts to get them going at a show level should be going. They also mentioned that they'd like to do more shows on the road and are hoping that the area club manager can arrange some shows for them through the club system in Europe.

"The area club manager is currently helping out as a manager, and he can open the doors into the club system but, in order to do that we have to make a recording and send it to the other clubs and then they'll set a price on what they believe is a show band such as we have should get. Again, the problem is trying to find a recording studio that can handle us and finding the time out from the military jobs that we have our first commitment to," Smith says.

If you haven't gotten a chance to listen to the Paris Show Band, ask for a schedule of their show dates and times from the members of the band.

Club was now officially called.¹¹⁰ Increasingly, the music wishes of the black community were now also taken into account.

The drummer and later Hi-Fi- specialist Jürgen M. Mäurer (born 1958) had already performed frequently as a drummer in the Wiley barracks as a minor, before he was allowed to play with the *Frisco Kids* at Army Clubs in the whole of South Germany from 1976/77. The German-American band then had the unique opportunity of presenting their kind of sound, which could otherwise only be heard on AFN, live to a quite critical audience. Whether soul, funk, disco or blues, the *Frisco Kids*' adapted their repertoire to every occasion. This was based on contemporary hits by artists such as George Clinton & Parliament-Funkadelic, Marvin Gaye or Earth, Wind & Fire. The quality of the bands in the American Club System was ensured by a preceding audition. The *Frisco Kids* thus took part in a central audition in Göppingen.

The musicians and bands selected were then placed into five categories, which determined their fees and their opportunities to perform. Registration and coordination were handled centrally by the USAREUR *Commercial Entertainment Branch* in Schwetzingen (Tompkins Barracks). As before, employment with the Yanks guaranteed above-average pay, excellent catering and, last but not least, the best contacts in the regional music scene. In addition, one lived virtually at the pulse of modern pop music. Especially those who were interested in black music got their money's worth in the barracks between Heidelberg and Grafenwöhr.

Around 1980, as part of the United Service Organizations (USO) so-called *Military Club Circuit*, several American stars made appearances at the Wiley Club. On November 30, 1977, for example, *The Undisputed Truth* were guests. In 1980, *Alton McClain & Destiny* were followed in January by a formation of *The Drifters* in April, *The Impressions* in May and *Joe Simon* in August. Rumor has it that *The Commodores* with *Lionel Richie* and later *Cameo* also performed at the club during this period.

¹¹⁰ The Starlite NCO Club at the Allgäuer Ring was closed down in the mid 1970's. This certainly didn't have a detrimental effect on the discipline in the Wiley NCO/EM Club

The Donau, 24.04.1981 (StadtA Neu-Ulm)



The Donau Republic, 15.10.1976 (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

Increasingly, however, the bands themselves took the initiative in the garrisons. In the summer of 1980, the band *Orbits* or *Horizon* was formed in Neu-Ulm. “*We figured there was too much disco and C[ountry] & W[estern] here in Germany, so we decided it’s time to get some live rock and roll in the area.*”¹¹¹ The band, consisting of Michael Pepe, Bill Kendel, Andy Bell, Rich Hendry, Marshall Doughtie and the DJ of the Nelson EM Club Jim Collins, described themselves as “*the only true rock and roll band between Stuttgart and Munich*”.¹¹² This did not go unnoticed by the German organizers. Authentic rock from the States enjoyed increasing popularity. Since the beginning of the 1980s, Chicanos, Latinos and other Hispanics had also established their own cultural forum and ethnic interest group with the Neu-Ulm Latin Club and

111 The Donau from April 24, 1981

112 Ibid.

greatly enhanced the Wiley Club’s program with their Latin Dance Nights.

On the 30th anniversary of the garrison’s existence, Neu-Ulm’s local forces newspaper encouraged GIs to become more involved (again) in German-American friendship. “*If U. S. soldiers are somewhat mystified by the larger military and political factors which have brought them here, they may not, and should not be confused about their responsibilities regarding the fostering of positive German-American relations.*”¹¹³

Moreover, the GIs should always be aware of their responsibility as ambassadors of the free world and seek understanding with the Germans in the spirit of comradeship, trust and peace. It didn’t go further than cautious appeals and encouragements. No ceremony or celebration was planned. After all, Veterans Day was (and is) already scheduled in the American calendar for November 11. Instead, the news that USAREUR had recently announced that it would invest about \$3 million in the maintenance of the barracks facilities was a greater cause for celebration. Meanwhile Jürgen Mäurer had invested his salary as a musician in setting up his specialist store Music & Service in the Blaubeurer Straße. His regular customers subsequently included the American bands of the garrison, such as the *Paris Show Band*, founded in 1983 around Riano McFarland (born 1963, vocals), Dante Thompson (born 1962, bass guitar), Curtis Crudup (born 1960, guitar), four other musicians and a sound engineer. The band’s repertoire ranged



The Frisco Kids (left to right) Romi Schickle, Karl-Heinz “Sappi” Lepple, Edwin “Eddi” Meinhardt, Jürgen Mäurer and Ed Leato, ca. 1979. (Jürgen M. Mäurer)



Dante Thompson playing the Bass, Wiley Club (C. Crudup)

from jazz, rhythm & blues and pop to funk and dance. In addition to cover versions of Michael Jackson and Rick James, they also played their own compositions. *“Together the eighth man that make up the Paris Show Band have packed in crowds at the Liberty Club [= later Gorki Park], the Terrace Recreation Center, and both the Wiley and Guenzburg NCO Clubs.”*¹¹⁴

Dante Thompson and Curtis Crudup now live in Ehingen and Memmingen, respectively, and are still active in the regional music scene. Thompson played in various band projects and in the early 1990s, as a regular at Neu-Ulm’s Café D’Art and a sought-after bassist, he also accompanied the first musical attempts of the Ulm hip-hoppers from Kinderzimmer Productions (initially still as “Die 3 Rüben” – The 3 carrots). Most recently, Thompson and Crudup, as DT & DJ Sugarbear, had released their Mix Tape Volume 1 with *Vibrations* in the late summer of 2021. Jürgen Mäurer now (2022) runs a practice for coaching and psychotherapy

114 *The Donau* from November 18, 1983.

(MPU) in Neu-Ulm’s Wiley.

Since the early 1980s at the latest, the U.S. Army had fundamentally changed its entertainment concept for the barracks. DJs replaced or supplemented the regular appearances of live bands. Only occasionally and irregularly bands like *Paris* were given the opportunity to perform in the club system. New Ulm’s area club manager, Thomas E. Leechin, ensured a balanced music mix and in particular coordinated the programs of the Nelson and Wiley NCO/EM clubs. However, the respective club managers were solely responsible for the implementation of the concepts. *“Unlike what some*



Curtis Crudup playing in the Wiley Club (C. Crudup)

*people may think, the club manager is responsible for running his club, and gets almost no financial aid from the Army. [...] That means it runs on the same principle as an outside business. We exist solely off the revenues we generate.”*¹¹⁵

The Wiley NCO/EN Club was closed on Mondays. During the week, the resident DJ played a set sequence of music – Rock & Roll (Tuesday), Country and Western (Wednesday) and Soul (Thursday). A Soul band played on Friday evening and Saturday

115 *The Donau* from August 27, 1982.

was generally reserved for a Country or Rock band. On Sundays, the club offered an all-day buffet and a quieter Soul Night, again with a DJ. At the same time, video films were shown in a separate room and the club could be rented by private individuals and organizations. The kitchens of the Club System also supported the US troupes on manoeuvres, for festivities or for official events if required.

Digression

PEACE MOVEMENTS AND NONCONFORMISTS

With the successive introduction of the feared mobile medium-range missile SS-20 in 1976/77, the Soviet Union increased its (nuclear) attacking potential and brought about a qualitative change in the European security situation. However, it was not Moscow's reawakened hegemonic claims but the reactions of the West that mobilized the spirit of resistance, especially in the European population. In December 1979, the defense and foreign ministers of the NATO member states (with the exception of France) agreed on the so-called NATO Double Track Decision, which provided for the stationing of several hundred U.S. Pershing II missiles or ground-launched cruise missiles in Western Europe as a counter to the Soviet SS-20s. In the Federal Republic, this decision was not initially widely received nor even debated. It was not until Erich Kuby (1910-2005) published the locations of the deployed Pershing missiles in the weekly magazine Stern at the beginning of 1981 that a year-long, sometimes extremely emotional discussion of the fundamental principles began. For many reasons, Ulm/Neu-Ulm was not a particularly attractive location for the peace movement; instead, the small town of Mutlangen near Schwäbisch Gmünd

developed into a (nationwide) center of protest against the stationing of American weapons of war.¹¹⁶ Nonetheless, a participant in the Neu-Ulm demonstration on Easter Sunday 1983 subsequently successfully sued his way to the Federal Constitutional Court and thus took on a very prominent role in the debate about the legality of sit-in demonstrations and the legal and social controversy surrounding the expansion of the

concept of violence.¹¹⁷

The actions of the peace movement in Ulm and Neu-Ulm have already been the subject of local reporting, historical narrative and political education on several occasions and will

not be repeated here in detail. Incidentally, the Ulm peace activist, cultural manager and model European, the talented jack of all trades Prof. Peter Langer (born 1950) is likely to provide information about this willingly at any time. The large-scale demonstration on October 21/22, 1983, including the human chain from Neu-Ulm to Stuttgart, not only attracted worldwide attention, but also found its way into German literature. In his novel *Mittelreich*, which is well worth reading, the actor and writer Josef Bierbichler (born in 1948) wrote about the fictitious departure of an exasperated Peter Maffay (born in 1949) from the stage erected on the Neu-Ulm Volksfestplatz. *"The singer stopped in the middle of the song. Then the band faded away. Within minutes, the febrile atmosphere turned into a moving silence. Abandonment, helplessness, uncertainty. There were heads bent, open mouths from which no more*

¹¹⁶ On the factors that spoke against Ulm/Neu-Ulm and in favor of Mutlangen, see R. ROHRMOSER, "Sicherheitspolitik von unten": *Ziviler Protest gegen Nuklearrüstung in Mutlangen, 1983-1987* (= Frieden und Krieg. Beiträge zur Historischen Friedensforschung Band 26), Frankfurt am Main u. New York 2021 (also Diss. Univ. Mannheim 2019), pp. 79ff., 112f., 138 and (summarizing) pp. 400ff.

¹¹⁷ See *ibid.* pages 356f.

sound came. The baffled silence crept back to the rows at the rear. The tension in the crowd now was really intense. Those in the back saw the banner on two wooden poles held up in the air by the crowd, but they could not read the text that faced forward to the stands. Those in front were unaware of what was happening behind them, felt only the unused microphones in their unused ears and still kept their eyes strained forward instead of turning their heads to look at the scandalous banner. At last the singer picked up the microphone again [...] and let the hundred thousand [...] know that under these circumstances he would have to stop singing. That went too far. All at once the diversity of these hundred thousand, which consisted not only of like-minded people, as the like-minded would prefer, but also of unlike-minded people, forming the diversity and thus the cross-section, the power pool of each mass, at the same time showed their powerlessness.



“Sit down for peace”, sit-in blockade in the Memminger Straße (G. Ranft)

Guided by the singer’s indignation, all the like-minded finally turned their heads and read what the unlike-minded were getting into their thick heads: *BETTER PERSHING II THAN PETER MAFFAY.*¹¹⁸ Bierbichler followed this more or less truthful description with an auspicious aphorism, with which he introduced the seven-page finale of the inner transformation of his main protagonist: “*Aus rotem Grund und schwarzer Schrift wächst wohl ein Gutes nicht.*” (“I guess nothing good grows out of a red background and some black writing.”)¹¹⁹

118 P. BIERBICHLER, *Mittelreich*, Berlin 2011, S. 354f.

119 Ibid. page 355. Emphasis in the original



Call for a demonstration (The Green Party’s district association).

Contrary to the persistent rumors that Maffay, who had just sung his interpretation of the Karat hit *Über Sieben Brücken mußst Du gehen* on the piano, stopped playing after seeing the banner, it should be noted that he was only made aware of the action by his tour manager and *Grüne Raupe* co-initiator Fritz Rau (1930-2013). After a few strong puffs on his Roth-Händle cigarette, concert organizer Peter Langer finally succeeded in convincing the trouble makers to roll up the banner again.¹²⁰ To this day, the long-suffering Maffay still dislikes talking about this incident.¹²¹

The army increased its efforts to recognize the

120 Friendly message from Mr. Peter Langer, Ulm

121 In his autobiography published in 2005, Fritz Rau did mention his participation in the “human chain from Ulm [sic] to Stuttgart”, but, in the more than 50 pages devoted exclusively to Peter Maffay, avoided even mentioning the incident. F. RAU, *50 Years Backstage. Erinnerungen eines Konzertveranstalters*, Heidelberg (first in 2005) 2006, p. 126, cf. pp. 170-213.



Human chain in the Memmingerstraße (W. Zeil)

accomplishments of the black minority in the military and community.¹²² Every February since at least 1985, Neu Ulm has celebrated *Black* (or

African-American) *History Month*. The diverse program with lectures, readings, balls, musical and theater performances, fashion shows, dance performances, prayers, a quiz and the inevitable soul food dinner always ended with a disco at the Wiley NCO/EM Club.



Final concert and rally (G. Ranft)

¹²² A good introduction and overview (unfortunately not updated for several years), as well as research references on *Blacks in the Military*, is provided by the *Archives Library Information Center* (ALIC) of the National Archives (<https://archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/blacks-in-military.html#page-header>, 7/18/2021).



Graffiti on a building on Allgäuer Ring, 1982 (SWP. M. Müssig)

THE SO-CALLED TURNAROUND AND THE END OF THE STORY (?)

In October 1986 and as part of the U.S.-Soviet disarmament negotiations (INF Treaty), which were largely due to the commitment of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev (1931-2022), General Secretary of the Central Committee (CC) of the CPSU, the U.S. Army announced that the Neu-Ulm site would be restructured and that local investment would amount to almost a quarter of a billion DM. The relationship between the city and the garrison had rarely been better. When the head of the site administration, Colonel Michael P. Eskew, retired in August 1987, he even affirmed that the relations between the Neu-Ulm garrison and the local population were (by now) the best in the whole of NATO. Earlier, at the Wiley Club, Neu-Ulm's Senior Mayor Dr. Peter Biebl (1937-2006) had awarded Eskew the Hermann Köhl Medal of the City of Neu-Ulm. According to the official *Installation Design Guide* (IDG) of April 1988 and September 1990, the site was to be redesigned within the framework of the Army Communities of Excellence Program (ACOE) to create a contemporary, functional, professional and attractive working environment for both civilian employees and serving soldiers. In particular, great emphasis was placed on external appearance: *"Design goals have been identified to capitalize on visual assets as image generators and to address problems associated with visual liabilities"*¹²³ The US Military Community Activity (USMCA) Neu-Ulm wanted its visual identity to draw closer to that of the town. Wiley Mitte with its characteristic rows of trees and the Ludwigsvorfeite (= Site XIII of the Federal Fortress), known to the Yanks only as *The Bunker*, was the focus of the (landscape) architectural efforts to achieve *"visual harmony"*. The somewhat dreary courtyard of the horseshoe-shaped building complex of the *Recreation Center*,

¹²³ StadtA Neu-Ulm, *Installation Design Guide* (unverz.). Unless otherwise stated, the following citations also refer to this document.

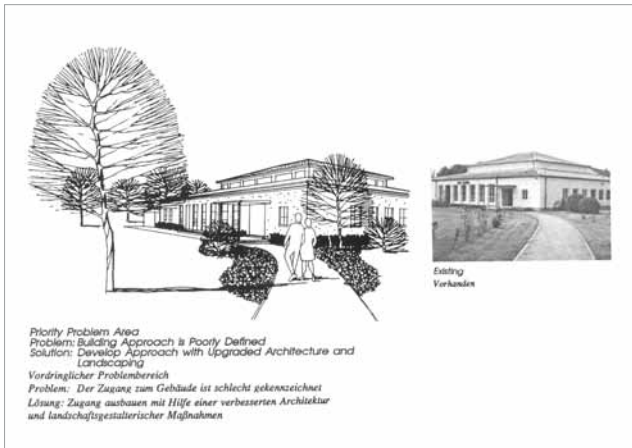
which was covered with Schwenk's exposed aggregate concrete slabs, was to be upgraded to a partially covered plaza and entrance to the new *Central Wiley Community Center* and made into a real eye-catcher and high-quality recreation area. The Wiley EM Club, on the other hand, was to be complemented by a spacious terrace to the south (*"outdoor plaza"*), complete with a fountain, and renamed the Wiley NCO Club. In the meantime, the term *enlisted men* and EM (club) had gone completely out of fashion and, as was well known, military service in the USA was no longer



Mayor Dr. Peter Biebl dismantling an off-limits sign at Escheugraben (StadtA Neu-Ulm).

compulsory after the end of the Vietnam War. At the end of 1988 the U.S. Army budgeted almost DM 1.5 million, just for the renovation work inside the club. Under the motto *Neu-Ulm - New Spirit*, the Americans planned a *Model Installation* of supra-regional significance for the Wiley Barracks. At the same time, Peter Biebl approached his former fellow student from his Munich years and now Federal Minister of Defense Dr. Rupert Scholz (born 1937) about possible assistance for the Neu-Ulm population in the event of a partial withdrawal of troops. In fact, the Americans withdrew the first Pershings from Neu-Ulm in mid-December 1988.

In future, conventional artillery was to be stationed in Neu-Ulm instead of medium-range missiles.

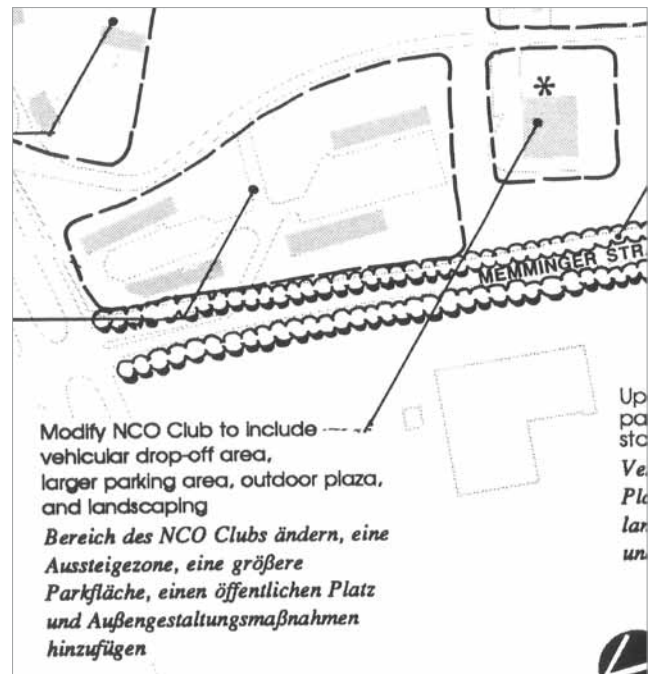


Design guidelines for the 1991 site conversion that were not implemented (StadtA Neu-Ulm).

In the meantime, work had begun at the Wiley EM/NCO Club to repair the leaking roof. A new grease trap was also installed. At this time, no one was seriously thinking about German-German reunification and the possible (complete) disbandment of the military base. While people on the Danube were preparing for more years of American military presence, the world public was following events in East Germany with concern and excitement. On November 9, 1989, at an international press conference in East Berlin, Günter Schabowski (1929-2015), the recently appointed spokesman for the Central Committee of the SED, read from a piece of paper: *“And that is why Uh.... we have decided to... today Uh... to make an arrangement that makes it possible for every citizen of the GDR.... possible, uh... via border crossing... -points of the GDR... Uh... to leave the country”* and, to his knowledge, this measure was to come into force *“immediately, without delay”*¹²⁴ The announcement of this *“transitional arrangement”* on television and radio was the final straw for the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The (Berlin) Wall, *“that is, this ... fortified ... state*

¹²⁴ Transcription of Schabowski's statement on GDR television (DDR 1). Unless otherwise indicated, the following quotations also refer to Schabowski's remarks

border of the GDR,” had become obsolete in one fell swoop; the turning point was within reach. As early as 1989, the American political scientist Francis Fukuyama heralded the superiority and victory of (market) liberalism over all past, present and future competing economic and political systems and ideologies. As the objective of the historical development of fundamental principles of human coexistence, he eventually declared, in 1992, that liberal democracy, with universal



Design guidelines for the 1991 site conversion that were not implemented (StadtA Neu-Ulm).

historical intent, to be the final human form of government. Fukuyama's writings received a wide, worldwide reception. There is still disagreement today about the significance of the theses raised by Fukuyama. The ideas evoked by the question of an end of the story, however, seem to have primarily promoted radical market ideas.¹²⁵

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, a wave of Western triumphalism spurred the expectations of financial service providers on both sides of the Atlantic. While Eastern European communities and states were suffering numerous transition

¹²⁵ Vgl. F. FUKUYAMA, *The End of History. Wo stehen wir?* München 1992 (first americ. 1992).

crises and were struggling to meet the *Washington Consensus's*, requirements, companies and investment banks were preparing to exploit the new emerging markets.

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that, following the socioeconomic changes of the 1970's, the boom times of nationwide investment had long become history. In the West, the classic growth path had run its course, and in the East, a post-Soviet kleptocracy was embezzling large portions of the national wealth. Underemployment and unemployment here and twiddling thumbs there were the normal state of affairs and people were only too happy to believe the common liberal interpretation of Fukuyama's theses: After political events had become history, the invisible (self-regulating) forces of the markets would now resolve people's economic and social problems in a global economic equilibrium. International competition, facilitated by the achievements of free trade and the evolution of new technologies, would quasi automatically satisfy the needs of all market participants and ensure a global social-ecological balance of interests. In short and above all, the disappearance of systemic antagonism removed the boundaries of the providential belief in progress of the political proponents of neoclassicism. The revelation of the phantasm of the *New Era* and of a *Great Moderation*, i.e. of the end of the devastating economic cycle, most recently communicated with great media impact by the future Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in 2004, was and is regarded by the radical disciples of the market (or of the markets) as the temporary all-time high and at the same time as the macroeconomic counterpart of Fukuyama's theses.¹²⁶

In the early 1990s, the political elite of the Federal Republic of Germany, with all the justified joy of the so-called reunification, also hesitantly but willingly became dependent on the increasingly unrealistic number games of the globalized financial

markets and the cybernetic planning games of the self-proclaimed last enlighteners.

The then CSU party leader and member of the Bundestag for Neu-Ulm, Federal Minister of Finance Dr. Theo – “*Everyone defines the common good differently*” - Waigel (born 1939) was (and is) by no means known as a follower of the *Chicago School*, yet he and the monumental *Unity* Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl (1930-2017) gave the former GDR by far the most radical shock therapy of all post-communist countries.¹²⁷ What Waigel might have wanted to be understood as an unavoidable but sensible integration into the market-economy system according to all the rules of the art of privatization and German regulatory policy, was in fact not much more than a kind of “*receivership with a severance scheme*”.¹²⁸ On the other hand, Kohl, the demolition ball, in his excessive overconfidence and out of political vanity, promised flourishing landscapes even in places where, in the opinion of the staff of the completely overwhelmed Treuhandanstalt (Privatization agency), there had been no future for a long time.¹²⁹

East Germany paid a high price, including a moral price, for this hasty integration into the Federal Republic's (and later the European) domestic market and the world economy. In 1991, unemployment in the new federal states was already around 30%, with regional differences. In the city of Rostock, the number of jobs available was expected to fall by

¹²⁷ T. WAIGEL U. S. COLLET: „Weil Kapitalismus sich ändern muss: Im Gespräch mit Theodor Waigel“, in: H. ROSA, S. COLLET u.a. (Hgg.), *Weil Kapitalismus sich ändern muss: Im Gespräch mit Hartmut Rosa, Stephan Lessenich, Margrit Kennedy, Theo Waigel. Mit einem Vorwort von Elmar Altvater*, Wiesbaden 2014, p. 107-137, p. 129.

¹²⁸ G. SINN U. H.-W. SINN, *Kaltstart. Volkswirtschaftliche Aspekte der deutschen Vereinigung*, Tübingen (first in 1991) 1992, S. VII (forward to the first edition), cit. from P. THER, *Die neue Ordnung auf dem alten Kontinent. Eine Geschichte des neoliberalen Europa*, Frankfurt am Main (zuerst 2014) 2015, p. 97.

¹²⁹ On the Treuhandanstalt, see the publications from the IfZ research project *Die Geschichte der Treuhandanstalt*, <https://www.ifz-muenchen.de/aktuelles/themen/geschichte-der-treuhandanstalt/> (25.09.2022). On the actual research project, see also D. HOFFMANN, „Von der Plan- zur Marktwirtschaft. Die Treuhandanstalt und die Privatisierung der ostdeutschen Wirtschaft“, in: M Böck u.a. (Hgg.), *Jahrbuch Deutsche Einheit 2020*, Berlin 2020, p. 187-205.

¹²⁶ See also J. QUIGGIN, *Zombie Economics. How Dead Ideas Still Walk among Us*, Princeton u. Oxford 2012 (first 2010), p. 5ff.; J. VOGL, *Das Gespenst des Kapitals*, Zürich (first in 2010) 2016, p. 112ff.; M. HUDSON, *Der Sektor. Warum die globale Finanzwirtschaft uns zerstört*, Stuttgart (first in americ. 2015) 2016, p. 229ff.

almost 50% in 1992 compared with the beginning of 1990.¹³⁰ Not even the initial German-German enthusiasm and winning the soccer World Cup in the Italian summer of 1990 could mask this misery. Especially in the wild East, the growing tragedy (“anschwellender Bocksgesang” - Botho Strauß) was accompanied by a hysterical and misanthropic feeding of the scapegoat.

At the end of September 1991, a horde of neo-Nazis, accompanied by hundreds of curious supporters, attacked former foreign GDR contract workers and asylum seekers in Hoyerswerda, Saxony, marking the beginning of a series of right-wing extremist, sometimes fatal, acts of violence and pogroms in East and West Germany that lasted for several years.¹³¹ Here, in the socialist residential town in the south of the Lusatian lignite mining region, the frustration and hatred of a disillusioned youth met the fear of an equally disillusioned contract workforce and the sheer desperation of asylum seekers. Both the victim groups and the perpetrators yearned for a better life. However, they were still denied entry into the *Promised Land of neoliberal democracy*. We were still on its threshold. And while the Germans were (once again) mainly preoccupied with themselves, the USA and with it the so-called West were (once again) at war somewhere in the world to secure, by armed force, the preconditions and access to the boundless freedoms of market liberalism. Against this background, the Americans stuck to their Neu-Ulm *Model Installation* project for the time being. They made a short promotional film, which can still be seen on various video portals on the Internet. In Neu-Ulm, however, resentment grew. Against the background of the self-dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Vienna

¹³⁰ See amongst other H. HESELER u. B. WARICH, „Strukturwandel, Beschäftigung und Arbeitsmarktpolitik in Rostock“, in: *Mitteilungen aus der Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung* 25,3 (1992), p. 289-302, p. 291.

¹³¹ One of the first victims of right-wing extremist violence in Germany since reunification was Amadeu Antonio Kiowa (1962-1990), a former GDR contract worker who was critically injured by several skinheads in Eberswalde on the night of November 24-25, 1990. Kiowa, an Angolan, died a few days later of his severe head injuries on December 6, 1990.



Vernon A. Walters at a party in the Donau casino (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

disarmament negotiations, as well as the expected restructuring of the worldwide American military presence, the Neu-Ulm city councilors, led by their well-connected mayor, expressed their wishes regarding the future use of the parts of the barracks area that might become available. Close friend Theo (Waigel) in Bonn promised his dear Peter (Biebl) in Neu-Ulm that he would personally lobby for the release of the properties and, in particular, lobby the then U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Vernon A. Walters (1917-2002), for the town’s interests as well as those of the other American sites in question. This he apparently did. Because



Dr. Theo Waigel signing one of the purchase contracts for the American garrison areas in 1993 (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

of course Theo – “*Den Menschen im Wahlkreis Neu-Ulm fühle ich mich tiefer verbunden denn je*” - Waigel felt more closely connected to the people in

the Neu-Ulm constituency than ever before.¹³² Walters, a top American diplomat, 3-star general, interpreter and former *Deputy Director* of the CIA, just recently transferred to Bonn, was made an honorary citizen of the city of Neu-Ulm in June 1991. To this day, no one really knows why this man, completely dedicated to the U.S. Army, was given such an honor. It was well known that Neu-Ulm's mayor was a great fan of America. Dr. Biebl is said to have simply felt the need, on behalf of all the GIs stationed in Neu-Ulm, to thank a representative of the USA for their contribution to German post-war history, which indeed cannot be valued highly enough. Walters was, after all, one of the first American intelligence officers with combat experience in World War II and, in the critical pre-turnaround period, one of the most committed and vocal advocates of German unity. When he was presented with the Hermann Köhl Medal on June 26, 1991, a whiff of Watergate also wafted through the Edwin Scharff House (ESH). However, Walters, a hawk and a high-powered Catholic, had few, if any, memories of Neu-Ulm.¹³³ At any rate, in the summer of 1996 he once said in a newspaper interview that the appetite of American GIs for German Fräuleins in Neu-Ulm was extraordinarily great and that the marriage rate of German-American couples in Neu-Ulm was relatively high. Apart from that, he neither mentioned Neu-Ulm in the second part of his memoirs nor on any other occasion.¹³⁴

The Second Gulf War had hardly ended when the succession wars in the former territory of Yugoslavia ignited. At the same time as more and

more asylum seekers, re-settlers and Jewish quasi-contingent refugees from the former Soviet Union and numerous war refugees from the Balkans were arriving, the German asylum debate, which had been going on relentlessly for years, came to a head. Thus, at every opportunity, the governing parties stressed that the Federal Republic was not a country of immigration, although between 1988 and 1994 some 1.5 million people had applied for asylum in Germany. The far-right scene felt vindicated by such statements and became radicalized locally. Clubs and groups, such as the Ulm branch (with Neu-Ulm participation) of the Heimattreue Vereinigung Deutschlands (HVD), which was banned in July 1993, or the Wehrsportgruppe (military sports group) of the SV Germania Bellenberg were by no means exceptions, but merely the much-cited tip of the iceberg. At the same time, both Neu-Ulm's District Administrator Franz-Josef Schick (1936-2022) and, for example, Neu-Ulm's Third Mayor Rudolf Schaffer (1936-2002) (both CSU) took every opportunity to emphasize that neither the city nor the district had a serious problem with right-wing extremist structures. As keen as a razor, they concluded that what may not be, cannot be. The baseball bat years, which were very much characterized by the culture of juvenile violence, were not specifically an East German phenomenon, even if, after 1990, discontinuation of repressive state tactics in the East encouraged the scene there to emerge more openly. Between 1991 and 1994, the number of violent acts of right-wing extremism recorded as such averaged over 1,900 per year throughout the Federal Republic. During this period and beyond, the Ulm/Neu-Ulm region was also the scene of repeated vandalism, (arson) attacks and violent assaults on foreigners and dissidents. Whether Rafael Blumenstock was also a victim of brown rage in November 1990 is still unclear.¹³⁵ Meanwhile, the immigrant groups

¹³² T. WAIGEL, *Ehrlichkeit ist eine Währung. Erinnerungen*, Berlin 2019, S. 43.

¹³³ In the second part of his thoroughly entertaining memoirs, Walters did not mention Neu-Ulm at all. See: V. A. WALTERS, *Die Vereinigung war voraussehbar. Hinter den Kulissen eines entscheidenden Jahres. Die Aufzeichnungen des amerikanischen Botschafters*, Berlin 1994. Both here and in the first volume, Walters always presented himself as a loyal instrument of the respective U.S. governments as well as a pragmatic man of power. See: *In vertraulicher Mission*, Esslingen (first American, 1978) 1990.

¹³⁴ Vgl. V. A. WALTERS, *Die Vereinigung war voraussehbar. Hinter den Kulissen eines entscheidenden Jahres. Die Aufzeichnungen des amerikanischen Botschafters*, Berlin 1994.

¹³⁵ On the extremely brutal murder of Blumenstock and on some aspects of "Nazi violence in Ulm" in the 1990s, see, amongst others D. SCOTT U. R. ANDREASCH, *Gegen das Vergessen! Der Mord an Rafael Blumenstock in Ulm* (2020), [https://kollektiv26.blackblogs.org/2020/10/13/gegen-das-vergessen-der-mord-an-rafael-blumenstock-in-ulm/\(11.11.2022\)](https://kollektiv26.blackblogs.org/2020/10/13/gegen-das-vergessen-der-mord-an-rafael-blumenstock-in-ulm/(11.11.2022)).

that had been attacked did not remain idle. They regularly gathered on the fringes of youth soccer games, village festivals, in front of gymnasiums and in the parking lots of clubs and large discos to attack the unpleasant *Kartoffeln (Germans)* with brass knuckles, knives and blank guns. Conflicts between and within individual immigrant groups also increased noticeably. A downright spiral of violence gripped the cities and surrounding counties. In particular, the Iller valley was (and still is) considered a focal point of right-wing extremists in the region.

To make matters worse, West German employees, insurance companies and local authorities were now being served the bill for reunification. Everybody said that we had been living beyond our means for years. The way out of this permanent crisis was seen in a procyclical austerity program (budget consolidation), hasty privatization, cuts in wages and benefits and the general motto: tighten your belt. In the administrative hallways and lobby areas as well as in the parliaments, committees, boards and administrations of the (reunified) budgeting republic, a local, dumbed-down, technocratic elite was waiting to let the spirit of future reforms out of the champagne bottle.¹³⁶ Moreover, all macroeconomic hopes were pinned on the preparations for the establishment of the European Economic and Monetary Union and the planned introduction of the EURO, although it was already foreseeable that hardly any of the potential member countries, including Germany, met the economic accession criteria arbitrarily laid down in the so-called Maastricht Treaty. In short, the political, economic and social challenges were enormous, and in retrospect, even in the year 2022, it therefore seems quite justified to describe the 1990s, in the words of the Freiburg-based contemporary historian Ulrich Herbert, as a “*decade of excessive demands*”.¹³⁷

The dissolution of the Neu-Ulm U.S. garrison

¹³⁶ On the term „*Bodenständigkeitsverblödetheit*“, see R. GOETZ, *Johann Holtrop. Abriss der Gesellschaft. Roman*, Berlin 2012, page 224.

¹³⁷ HERBERT, 2017, as note 86, page 1144.

announced by the Department of Defense in mid-September 1990, would probably ease the housing crisis in Ulm/Neu-Ulm, at least in the medium-term. It was now official that the Americans had decided to dissolve the Neu-Ulm location not only partially, but completely and at short notice. Virtually overnight, undreamt-of prospects opened up for the town. The owner and managing director of the Ulm Münster Brewery and former member of the Ulm local council, lawyer Hans Heribert Grasmann (1933-2020), and beverage wholesaler Richard Kiechle (1921-1991) from Ulm’s Baurengasse were among the first local entrepreneurs to recognize the many future opportunities the vacant inner-city spaces offered and at a very early stage, expressed their interest as buyers or lessees of land and (gastronomy) properties.¹³⁸ This was probably no coincidence. After all, the Münster Brewery, together with Gold Ochsen, had been supplying the U.S. garrison with its Ulm beer specialties since the very beginning. Grasmann and Kiechle were also regulars at the Café Häberle in Neu-Ulm on the northern Petrusplatz, which was also regularly frequented by the Mayor, Dr. Biebl. – *honi soit, qui mal y pense*.

At the beginning of February 1991, the town council, the heads of the municipal offices, representatives of the Bavarian authorities concerned, the Stadtwerke Ulm/Neu-Ulm and the Kölz planning office from Stuttgart commissioned by the town of Neu-Ulm, as well as officials from the relevant federal authorities and representatives of the civilian and military U.S. administration visited the properties in question in a double-decker bus. It was now clear to all involved that the use and development of the inner-city conversion area, covering a total of over 140 hectares, was a unique opportunity for the future of the city.¹³⁹ While the municipal administration and the Federal Property Office (BVA) were still arguing about the modalities of an interim use of the buildings to suit the needs of all parties, and the Federal Ministry of

¹³⁸ See StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11437/2.

¹³⁹ See StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11606/1.



Aerial photograph with drawing of the conversion areas (A. Brugger)

Finance under Theo Waigel was already working on a solution for the transfer of ownership or the drafting of the purchase agreements that would be as community-friendly as possible, those interested in land and properties, especially the Wiley Barracks properties, were already queuing up. Münster Brauerei and Kiechle were now among the shortlisted applicants. Grasmann expressed his interest in all of gastronomic properties in general. Parts of the equipment still available in these properties belonged to the brewery anyway. Richard Kiechle, on the other hand, wanted to set up a new beverage warehouse in building No. 195 in Wiley North. Those who were too late or who could not fall back on sufficiently good contacts to the town administration ultimately came away empty-handed. From the very beginning, the town authorities and the Mayor Dr. Biebl turned down all requests that were deemed unwelcome or unsuitable. For example, the Kronenbrauerei from Söflingen, or Wolfgang Stichler, tried unsuccessfully for permission to set up a Musikantenstadel in the former Recreation Center. Individual landlords, such as the Ulm cult pub owner Paul Dieter ‘Capo’ Zauner (1945-2018),

were even considered persona non grata by the Neu-Ulm town council. Other, more promising applicants, such as the organizers of the Independent Film Days from Augsburg, were unsuccessful, despite having a convincing concept. Meanwhile, the remaining Americans made preparations for the handover of the real estate. From the beginning of April, the garrison’s entire furnishings were

cleared out and put up for sale. In the former vehicle and weapons depots of Wiley Barracks, the local management of the *Defense Reutilizations Marketing Office (DRMO)* collected everything from living room suites and thermal boots to chairs, lockers and electronic office equipment that the Army considered no longer usable. These were sold at reduced prices to an enthusiastic German public. In May 1991, the Gold Ochsen Brewery, in the person of Ulrike Freund, a trained banker and junior manager, finally became aware of the areas that could be used for gastronomy, especially the former officers’ mess on the Danube and the former NCO/EM Club of the Wiley Barracks. The Mayor, Dr. Biebl thanked her for the interest but kept Ms. Freund and her “branded beers” at arms-length.¹⁴⁰ In June 1991, the Bavarian state government declared that it would nominate the conversion areas in Neu-Ulm to the federal government for the *Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt)* research program. Meanwhile, it was time to say goodbye more than once during these weeks. Numerous official and private *farewell parties* accompanied the departure of the

¹⁴⁰ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 Nr. 11437/1.



Wiley Club 1991/92 (StadtA Neu-Ulm)



Final Retreat Ceremony, Lowering the site flag in the Wiley Barracks gym (SWP, S. Resch)

Americans. **On July 26, 1991**, at about 4:30 p.m., the flag of the U.S. Military Community Neu-Ulm was finally lowered in a solemn ceremony in the Wiley Barracks gymnasium. The clean-up continued until the end of September 1991. An era in Neu-Ulm's history had come to an end. Did this also mean the end of the club?

WILEY CLUB

Resurrection – Interim use or “do a lot with a little”¹⁴¹

By the end of August 1991 the town, in close¹⁴¹ cooperation with the Federal Property Office (BVA) and the Munich Chief Finance Office, had worked out a viable concept for the acquisition negotiations that were about to begin. Although there was still disagreement about the valuation at that time, Klaus Ullrich (born in 1939), then head of the Neu-Ulm real estate office, promptly succeeded in persuading Martin Tiemann, the outgoing first chairman of the Higher Expert Committee for Real Estate Values in North Rhine-Westphalia, to become involved in Neu-Ulm. For the time being, the BVA and the city were interested in putting the vacated US properties to a temporary and appropriate interim use. This was primarily intended to strengthen community ties and prevent vandalism. As a precaution, the area was therefore put under temporary surveillance

¹⁴¹ Personal communication from Mr. Paul Staffen, Salvador, Brasil.

by a Karlsruhe security service or its mostly East German employees.

In some cases, the initial interim use was also to develop into a long-term perspective. The four residential blocks in the north of the Wiley Club (Wileystraße 10, 12, 18 and 22), which had previously been used by American officers and older enlisted men living alone, were acquired early on by the then Chancellor of the University of Ulm, Dr. Dietrich Eberhardt (1937-2019), for the Student Union or Studierendenwerk Ulm.¹⁴² One of the first occupants of the duplexes of the dormitory was the present chief physician of the Wertachkliniken in Bobingen near Augsburg, Prof. Dr. med. Balkan Cakir (born 1972). The apartments were later taken over by the Augsburg Student Union and until recently rented out primarily to students of the Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, which was founded in the immediate vicinity in 1994/98

Meanwhile, the son of beverage wholesaler Richard Kiechle, Peter Kiechle (born 1961), had become interested in the Wiley Club. At this point, Kiechle,



Peter Kiechle & George Clinton in front of the Wiley Club, 1994 (P. Kiechle)

an avid kart driver, had been frequenting the Wiley Barracks for years. He and his teenage clique had socialized with mostly black soldiers at the garrison on and off since the late 1970s. Kiechle, like so many young citizens of Ulm and Neu-Ulm, was also involved in the forbidden intermediary



Paul Staffen, ca. 1994 (P. Staffen)

trade with duty-free American products from the PX store, partied with the American friends in and mostly outside the barracks, and spent countless hours playing billiards at the *Terrace Recreation Center*. He often ate lunch in the Wiley Club. On these and other occasions, he noticed one thing in particular: “*The club was black*”¹⁴³ Kiechle told Ulm restaurateur Paul Staffen (born 1951), the owner of *Café Piepmatz* (= *Café Plus*, later called *Schnipp*) on the Gideon-Bacher-Strasse and the legendary *Café 113* on the Frauenstrasse in Ulm, of the possibility of renting the Wiley Club through the Ulm Münster Brewery. Staffen was a customer of the brewery anyway and Kiechle was also fleetingly acquainted with Grasmann through his father’s wholesale beverage business.

In late summer/fall of 1991, after the Federal Property Office (BVA) had authorization to dispose of the entire barracks area, Peter Kiechle, Paul Staffen and Hans Heribert Grasmann arranged to meet in Ulm’s Weststadt at the end of the year. They finally agreed to approach the BVA about a sublet for Kiechle and Staffen. Staffen and his regulars at the 113 had also been aware of the Wiley Club for some time. Staffen was fascinated by the potential of this open, light-filled space, which created an almost Caribbean ambience in the summer evening hours. With the curtains and doors open, one had, as already mentioned, the

¹⁴² See StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 Nr. 11437/2.

¹⁴³ Personal communication from Mr. Peter Kiechle, Ulm.

impression of sitting in the middle of the garden. The relatively great height of the function room lent the club a certain lightness and dignity. At this point, Staffen was somewhat bored with his previous projects, including *Myer's Discothek* at Ulm's Lautenberg, which had only opened in 1990. He could well imagine developing this exceptional rarity into a veritable gem. The conditions were almost ideal; after all, the Americans had also cleaned up the place properly before they left and had obviously also cleaned the building with the help of a fumigant. *"The club was great - doing a lot with a little,"* was what he had in mind.¹⁴⁴ However, Neu-Ulm had still reserved the right to use the site for another purpose. A detailed listing by the Neu-Ulm real estate office from the end of January 1992 still listed the Ulm Münster Brewery as the sole interim user of all the catering, kiosk and snack businesses at the former Nelson and Wiley Barracks, although Kiechle and Staffen had come to an agreement with the brewery in the meantime.¹⁴⁵ It was now necessary to increase the pressure on the Neu-Ulm town council. It was now necessary to increase the pressure on the Neu-Ulm town council. To this end, a favorable report by arts editor Helmut Pusch appeared in the *Südwest Presse* as early as mid-January, according to which Kiechle and Staffen would set up a *"music club"* on the Wiley site.¹⁴⁶ *"The preliminary concept: 'The gap between the smaller Roxy in Ulm and the larger Gorki Park in Neu-Ulm is to be closed. [...] The goal: A pub where you can go even if you don't know the band playing in the evening.'"*¹⁴⁷ Meanwhile, Neu-Ulm and the Wiley site were on everyone's lips, both in the citizens' program *jetzt red i* broadcast by Bavarian television (BR) (broadcast on December 28, 1991), in the local and national press, and, for example, in the magazine of the Bavarian State Building Administration

bauintern (Jan./Feb. 1992 issue). For the first time in its young history, Neu-Ulm was forced to formulate a long-term and holistic urban development concept. Frankly, the then head of the building department, Wolfgang Baumann, explained that such a concept had simply not existed before. *"Until now, Neu-Ulm did not have an urban development concept, it is now being created 'inductively' i.e. from 'within' as a part of the structural concept of the US-sites"*¹⁴⁸ Neu-Ulm came of age in the truest sense of the word and now, above all, had to redefine its relationship with its big sister Ulm, which had been characterized for decades by arrogance, envy and jealousy (on both sides). To a certain extent, the Ulm/Neu-Ulm urban development association's concepts, which were later implemented and received nationwide attention, actually started here. At least, considering the challenges to be expected, Neu Ulm gradually became convinced that promoting more common grounds was well worthwhile.¹⁴⁹ *"Ulm arrogance"* and *"Neu Ulm's inferiority complex"* should finally belong to the past.¹⁵⁰ Moreover and in particular, the architectural metastases in the city center had to be contained and brought under control. It is well known, that to this day, Neu Ulm's *"soft-image"* suffered greatly under the constant, post-war growth. For Neu-Ulm, the conversion simply meant the greatest urban planning opportunity since the days of Karl Ellenrieder (1910-1989).¹⁵¹ Whilst

¹⁴⁸ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11606/2.

¹⁴⁹ M. LOERKE offers an instructive introduction (press review) to the manifold local political conflicts and problems of the 1990s in Ulm and Neu-Ulm *Grenzgeschichten. Das Verhältnis zwischen Ulm und Neu-Ulm in der öffentlichen Meinung* (= Small series of the City Archives Ulm Volume 2), Ulm 2004, p. 74ff. On the genesis and appropriateness of the urban development association, see, amongst other A. KATZ, "Regionale und interkommunale Zusammenarbeit: das Beispiel Ulm/Neu-Ulm", in: *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Kommunalwissenschaften* 40,2 (2002), pages 72-83.

¹⁵⁰ T. PFIZER U. K. WIEDER, "Theodor Heuss gave the start: You should go in there.' ULMER FORUM in conversation with Mayer Dr. h. c. Theodor Pfizer", in: *Ulmer Forum* 22/23 (1972), p. 65-69, p. 67.

¹⁵¹ See amongst others <https://www.nu-endeaufang.de/jahredanach-neuaufbau-der-stadt/> (June 27, 2021). The so-called Ellenriederplan was, of course, confined to Neu-Ulm's inner city.

¹⁴⁴ Personal communication from Mr. Paul Staffen, Salvador, Brasil.

¹⁴⁵ See StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 Nr. 11606/2.

¹⁴⁶ *Südwest Presse* from January 18, 1992.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

the Neu-Ulm municipal administration, in close cooperation with the Stuttgart planning office of Gunter Kölz, elaborated issues and produced position papers, the great run on the conversion sites' empty properties began. There could hardly have been an ambitious restaurateur from Ulm and Neu-Ulm who would not have wanted a piece of the pie. Particularly as revenue generated to date by the Americans' visit to the area were, here and there, quite significant. The 37,712 square meters of rental space on the Wiley site (Wiley North, Central and South) were also extremely interesting for other entrepreneurs, artists and private individuals. Since the American barracks buildings had never gone through a proper German building authorization process, they were formally considered be illegal buildings. Therefore, for every interim usage, building regulations required the issue of the appropriate permit. However, the Neu-Ulm administration feared that such a permit may have led to the preservation of the status quo of the building.

Kiechle and Staffen had been renovating the club for some time when Paul Staffen, in a letter dated April 16, 1992, pointed out to the Mayor Dr. Biebl that from his and Kiechle's point of view the city administration's concerns were unjustified *"If your time permits, we would be happy to explain our plan on the spot and show you the renovation work already done (under the carpet, we found a beautiful parquet floor, which we have reconditioned)."*¹⁵² In fact, for weeks, Kiechle and Staffen, supported by numerous helpers, such as Bernd Kutter, Elias Vamvakas and others, had been single-handedly day in, day out repairing and renovating, the club's interior and exterior. In particular, they all vividly remembered the removal of the unsavory brown-yellow-green carpet. *"The carpet stuck so well, that Bernd Kutter had to take a long run-up, and with gusto, run outside through the doors of the club with a 10-cm piece, just to even loosen it"*, says Peter Kiechle in retrospect.¹⁵³ *"Painting, electrical and , plumbing installations,*

¹⁵² StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11606/2.

¹⁵³ Personal communication from Mr. Peter Kiechle, Ulm.

renewal of the terrace and modernization of the kitchen" were to cost the trio, which in the meantime had been joined by Norbert Leipold, the owner of the *daily blue* store on the Frauenstrasse in Ulm, a total of around DM 100,000.¹⁵⁴ Although by this time most of the refurbishment work had already been completed and the operators fully expected an "opening towards the end of May", the majority of the members of the Neu-Ulm town council's "US-sites" working group were opposed to allowing the Ulm Münster Brewery to sublet the premises to Kiechle and Staffen.¹⁵⁵ The Mayor, Dr. Biebl on the other hand and according to a written reply dated 21. April 1992, was definitely of the opinion *"that approval of your plan will be possible and reasonable."*¹⁵⁶

On the evening of April 27, 1992, a site inspection and tour of the club took place in connection with the (sub)lease of the brewery to Kiechle and Staffen, which had already been approved by the BVA. The plan was for an interim use for five years, until the end of 1996. In any case, Staffen and Kiechle agreed with the representatives of the city council, the city administration and the Münster brewery present that they would apply for a shortening of the closing time to three o'clock at night. They also had to agree that under no circumstances would they set up a discotheque. No sooner said than done. The city council agreed. No hurdles were subsequently put in the way of the licensees. Even the persistent, sometimes pushy attempts by Neu-Ulm's building administration and public order department to fundamentally question the project and then allow it to fail were consistently dismissed by the Mayor, Dr. Biebl. Dr. Biebl nicknamed *"Blauen Peter"*, owing to his well-known alcoholic escapades in the town, turned out to be a reliable and generous supporter of the club's initiators.

According to the business description, a type of experience gastronomy was to be created in the

¹⁵⁴ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11606/2.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ In the meantime, the letter is in the possession of Lisa and Harold Geiger, Neu-Ulm.

premises of the former EM/NCO Club. 60 of the planned 120 seats were to be reserved for the restaurant service, the remaining seats were to be divided among the café and bar service, especially the 18-meter-long bar, planned right from the very beginning. During the summer months, there was to be seating on the new terrace as well. The construction of the new bar, running like a silver lining along almost the entire length of the restaurant, was necessary primarily for technical reasons. A few years earlier, roof damage had caused the parquet flooring to rot so badly in some places that extending the counter was simply the more cost-effective option.

The bar was constructed and fitted by Martin Trudel (born 1958), a metalworker and artisan from Pfuhl. The design was the work of Paul Staffen. His main focus during all renovation



Wiley Club interior in the 1990's, (M. Trudel)

and conversion work was to recreate the club atmosphere of the 1950s. Among the models and sources of inspiration for the globetrotter Staffen were the flair of *Rick's Café* from the film *Casablanca* (1942) and the interior design of the *Hotel Oriental* in Bangkok. Performances by local and international artists completed the concept of this extraordinary place. Staffen's "philosophy" was summarized in a newspaper article in the *Südwest Presse* in June 1992 as follows: "A spacious, live club along American lines, where concerts are to be held from time to time: [...]"



Wiley Club interior, designed by Martin Trudel (M. Trudel)

blues, funk or sometimes fusion jazz."¹⁵⁷ So much for the external image. Internally, the experienced caterer Staffen strove to always communicate a certain informality and nonchalance: "Rule number one: there are no rules; rule number two: refer to rule number one."¹⁵⁸ Ultimately, his rather ambivalent reputation raced ahead of him. His many employees in particular knew very well that a lot of hard work and strict selection criteria was behind the confidently stylish nonchalance. Right from the start, the trio involved was aware of the high financial risk. Initially, as already mentioned, they put about DM 100,000 into the project. However, the actual investments, including the resourceful trio's alternative sources of capital, amounted to many times that amount. The organizers were therefore delighted to receive the Ulmer Ratskeller's modern kitchen, which was owned by the Münster Brewery. This was much to the chagrin of the former landlord of the "Brücke" (Neu-Ulm), long-standing tenant of the Donauhalle, holder of the of the Federal Republic of Germany's Order of Merit and town councilor of Ulm, Walter Allinger (1926-2018), who for some unknown reason had also laid claim to the fittings. The club's kitchen was a central part of the gastronomic concept and a completely

¹⁵⁷ *Südwest Presse* from June 11, 1992.

¹⁵⁸ Personal communication from Mr. Paul Staffen, Salvador, Brazil..



Frank Maier, 1995 (N. Wollinsky)

independently managed area. Kiechle and Staffen found a reliable tenant in Kerstin Willer, sister of the (then) publican of the Krone in Illertissen, Jürgen Willer. Her sophisticated new German cuisine subsequently

contributed significantly to the club's good reputation and standing. In addition, Paul Staffen had found a congenial or crazy music promoter in the incomparable Frank Maier from Laupheim. Together, they generated the typical Wiley sound, although other promoters were occasionally called upon until the end of 1994.

“WE´VE ALWAYS HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE ACOUSTICS”¹⁵⁹ – THE WILEYEARS

On Wednesday, July 1, 1992, the official inauguration of the stage took place with the British acid jazz band Incognito.¹⁵⁹ The year before, supported by the US R&B singer Jocelyn Brown, a cover version of Ronnie Laws' *Always There* had been their biggest hit to date, especially in their home country and in the Benelux countries. The very first song, however, which was literally belted out by the band across the stage of the club, was the well-known *Pick Up the Pieces* by the Average White Band. A great start in front of an enthusiastic audience of about 350 guests. Ten days later, the Fun Rappers from the Fantastischen Vier from Stuttgart were guests. On August 2, Black Power activist Linton Kwesi Johnson delivered his emancipatory and crusading message, mostly formulated in the dialect of his dub poetry.

After a month of events, it was clear where the club was heading. Staffen and Maier had set their sights primarily on partying, awareness-raising and black music. The audience could therefore expect a certain range of genres and content. The coverage in the local press was very favorable. However, it was impossible to conceal the initial lack of quality in

the club's sound system. At the end of August and under the title *Die Wileys als wildes Kulturbiotop* (The Wileys as a wild cultural biotope), Udo Eberl published an overview of the diverse activities on the premises in the special supplement of the *Südwest Presse* for the 1992/93 cultural season. He immediately came to speak about the Wiley Club. “*In addition, the sound was refined at the last gigs, because the Bistro Palace, which was square-shaped and poorly muffled, did not initially guarantee hi-fi quality. The problems should now be solved by using speakers suspended from the ceiling and a sophisticated PA system.*”¹⁶⁰

In fact, the club's original acoustics, which were entirely focused on what was happening on stage, were completely destroyed by the modification. “*In terms of sound installation, actually a dream,*” says Jürgen Mäurer, the club was now “*one of the crappiest rooms far and wide for sound*”¹⁶¹ Fortunately, Mäurer was one of the few southern German distributors for the high-end British company *Turbosound*, as well as of the hi-fi systems

¹⁶⁰ *Südwest Presse* (supplement) from August 27, 1992.

¹⁶¹ Personal communication from Mr. Jürgen Mäurer, Neu-Ulm.

¹⁵⁹ Personal communication from Mr. Frank Maier, Berlin.

made by the audio engineers of *d & b*. By the beginning of September at the latest, the PA system, which met the highest international standards, had been adapted to the local conditions.

At the same time as a discussion developed about whether parts of the site could be protected as a historic monument, the first open-air cinema in New Ulm opened in Wiley Nord with the French grotesque *Delicatessen* and the (West) Allgäu cult film *Daheim sterben die Leut'*. The former Terrace Recreation Center (= *Arts + Crafts*) remained unused, apart from a brief, non-public performance by the Toten Hosen, who were preparing here for their world tour *Menschen, Tiere, Sensationen* (*People, Animals, Sensations*) in March 1992. This was much to the annoyance of Ulm concert promoter (including Wiley Open Air from 1996) Carlheinz Gern (born 1952). Initially, the town administration and the town council could not agree on a solution and thus not only annoyed the numerous interested parties - including Paul Staffen - but also wasted a lot of creative potential and, above all, time.

Ultimately, according to Mayor Wilhelm Bitterolf (1990-2002) (SPD), an interim tenant, "*who would not cause any difficulties in terms of municipal policy and move out after the contract expires [in three years at the latest]*", was sought especially for this central building complex."¹⁶² The concert organizers on the left bank of the Danube, however, followed the development with skepticism. In particular, the (highly subsidized) Roxy promoter Peter Langer feared strong competition from the new "*Music Hall*": "*There is talk of a joint cultural concept and Roxy is given all the praise. But a blind eye is turned, when something in Neu-Ulm is created that has already long been in Ulm for a long time.*"¹⁶³ In fact, it was the vacation committee of the Neu-Ulm city council that turned a blind eye. From the fall of 1993, the KoKo Entertainment agency was able to play in the hall, henceforth known as Arts + Crafts.

In Rostock-Lichtenhagen at the end of August 1992,

a drunken, right-wing extremist mob, ignored by the administration and largely unhindered by the overstretched emergency services, besieged the central reception center for asylum seekers for days on end. After the completely unjustified withdrawal of the police, the mob finally stormed the dormitory for Vietnamese contract workers in the reception center. Following this, the fear of acts of violence against non-Germans, minorities and asylum seekers also rose in Ulm and Neu-Ulm. The Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees had been using part of the vacated military quarters in Wiley-South since mid-July 1991. At that time, Neu-Ulm was already home to about 260 ethnic German immigrants and asylum seekers. In view of the expected increase in asylum applications, the government of Swabia, responsible for implementing the Federal Office's plans, insisted on the medium-term implementation of a concept that was viable for the city and the district. Parts of the barracks area of both the former Nelson and Wiley Barracks, which were still fenced in with barbed wire as high as a man, served only as temporary and emergency accommodation for a few months. In October 1992, the central contact point for up to 500 asylum seekers was able to open its doors in the accommodation buildings in Wiley South, which were equipped with electric security gates. Since then, the largest home for asylum seekers in all of (Bavarian) Swabia has been located in the immediate vicinity of the Wiley Club

Until the end of 1992, international stars such as the *Urban Dance Squad*, the *Sugarhill Gang* with DJ Grandmaster Flash and Kurtis Blow, *Ronny Jordan*, *Universal Congress Of* or the *Stereo MC's* with their brand-new super hit *Connected* had played in the club. Without Frank Maier's contacts and his tireless energy, these and most of the other concerts staged until the end of 1994 would not have been possible.¹⁶⁴ When there were no major music events, the club concentrated on day-to-day business. Whether for lunch or business, coffees

¹⁶² *Schwäbische Zeitung* from August 19, 1993.

¹⁶³ *Südwest Presse* from August 16, 1993

¹⁶⁴ See the appended list of concerts held at the Wiley Club between the summer of 1992 and the end of 1994.

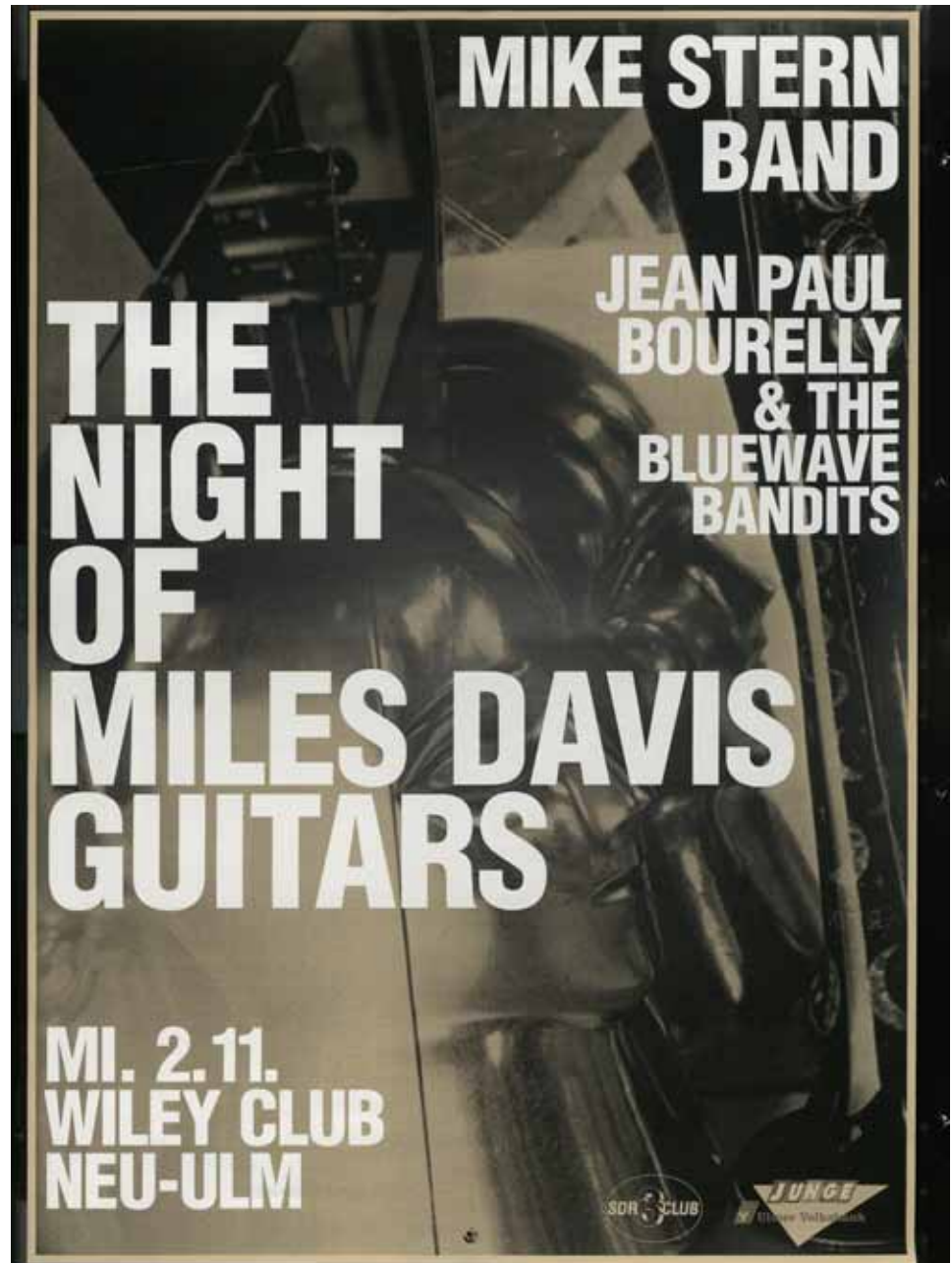
with perfect milk foam, a venue for special occasions or somewhere to meet in the evening, the club quickly developed into a new Place To Be, known throughout the whole surrounding region.

This, of course, did not go unnoticed by the major (pop) cultural institutions, such as the Süddeutscher Rundfunk (SDR) in Stuttgart. Again, it was Frank Maier who made the contact. Finally, he was always popping in and out to see Jürgen Rathfelder or “Jogi” (born 1953), the long-standing head of music at SDR/SWR¹⁶⁵ The SDR regularly sent broadcast trucks (sound and picture) to Neu-Ulm and included the Wiley Club, although located in Bavaria and thus in the area of the Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR), as an advertising partner and member of the SDR 3 Club (*Free Republic - Wild South*).

Together with the presenter Thomas Schmidt, who died in 2019, Rathfelder

had visited the Wiley Club in person several times. In addition to the exceptional commitment and concept of the managers, he also remembers the impressive bar, which Schmidt and Rathfelder soon referred to only as the Chablis bar. The club had a high brand recognition and was unique in its own way. This was also the view of the many regulars.

¹⁶⁵ At this point we would like to thank Mr. Jogi Rathfelder, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, for his friendly cooperation



The Night of Miles Davis Guitars (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

Since 1992/93 Balkan Cakir, mentioned above, spent countless evenings at the Wiley Club. Whether as a medical student, assistant physician, organizer of the social evenings for the employees of the *Ulm Spine Weeks* or as a family man: Cakir - in the meantime chief physician at the Wertach Clinics in Bobingen near Augsburg - has remained loyal to this “*place for everyone*” to this day.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁶ Personal communication from Mr. Balkan Cakir, Bobingen.



Dee Lite (StadtA Neu-Ulm)

On February 4, 1994, the Mayor, Dr. Biebl issued a press release regarding the signing of the purchase agreement on February 11 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the City of Neu-Ulm for the real estate of the former Wiley Barracks. The widely known objectives were described therein. *“Neu-Ulm intends to develop a new district (‘Südstadt’) there”*.¹⁶⁷ The work on the transfer of the former American barracks to the town had thus come to an end. The Germany-wide model character of this work was the implementation, for the first time, of comprehensive valuations on the one hand and on the other hand, successful purchase negotiations on US military properties between the federal government and a local authority. This was, at least on this scale, quite a novelty and exemplary for many other conversion

¹⁶⁷ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11439/1.

projects. In his budget speech at the town council meeting on February 2, the mayor, Dr. Biebl said *“The decisive factor for the public interest of these deals was that, at the beginning of the negotiations, the town’s participation in the valuation procedures had been assured, an arrangement that meant a departure from the previous pricing mechanisms of the state in the sale of properties.”*¹⁶⁸ For the town of Neu-Ulm, the acquisition of all properties previously used by the Americans (including the former Nelson Barracks, the Vorfelds, and the other real estate) undoubtedly meant the *“largest real estate transaction in its history.”*¹⁶⁹ The Wiley Club, on the other hand, was almost forgotten in this jubilant mood, which was only clouded by the economic crisis. In the purchase contract, it was listed as an *“outbuilding”* “to be disregarded.”¹⁷⁰ In addition, immediately after the signing of the contract, the town administration was instructed to exhaust all possibilities of increasing the rents of the interim tenants.

As early as January 1994, the Kölz planning office presented an urban development structural concept for the entire former U.S. site. On February 9, 1994, the U.S. Special Committee of the Neu-Ulm Town Council began its work, and in April of the same year, a nationwide design competition was announced. Both in the preliminary plans of the Kölz planning office and in the framework plan requested by the Kommunalentwicklung (Municipal Development) Baden-Württemberg GmbH (KE) as well as in the announcement of the competition, the planners were confronted with relatively fixed specifications. The club building, however, always remained at the planners’ discretion. The winner of the competition, Wolfram Baltin + Partner from Karlsruhe, did take special account of the existing historical features in Wiley Mitte. However, in the medium term, the Wiley Club building was to be replaced by a multifunctional hall, also with a square

¹⁶⁸ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11539.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ StadtA Neu-Ulm, A 1 No. 11439/1.

floor plan. At the beginning of March 1995, this provoked considerable resistance, especially by the town-initiated *Wiley-Areal citizens' workshop*. Their explicit demand was for the continued use of the existing building: "*The Wiley Club must be saved*".¹⁷¹ This commitment was ultimately decisive. In early July 1995, the special committee

171 Ibid.

of the town council, now chaired by Dr. Beate Merk (born 1957), the mayor who had emerged victorious in a sensational election, adopted the assessment of the citizens' workshop, making the clear recommendation that: "The Wiley Club should be maintained and continue to operate in its current form."¹⁷²

172 Ibid.

Epilog

"BACK THEN, THE HOLES IN THE PANTS WERE HONEST AND NOT BOUGHT."¹⁷³

Since Frank Maier had concentrated on his activities as a presenter at Radio free FM in Ulm and as head of the southern German office of the Hamburg promo and marketing agency Public Propaganda at the beginning of 1995, and Paul Staffen had boarded a plane to Brazil one day before his 44th birthday in October 1995, Lisa Geiger finally took over the directorship of the club. In the meantime, a new generation of concert promoters had also come on the scene. For example, Stefan BC Bausenhardt¹⁷³, still under Paul Staffen, gained his first experience as a promoter at the Wiley Club. Soon, however, the local glitterati and the many wannabe yuppies, both of which had always been mainstays of the club, had prevailed. Since then, not only the concept, but also the format of the club has been radically changed. Both the interior and exterior, as well as the atmosphere of the club, have been defaced beyond recognition. Instead of elegance and dignified pragmatism, glitter and profit maximization now prevailed. The

spirit of Paul Staffen, Peter Kiechle and Frank Maier has long since disappeared from the Wiley. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely because of this, the club still draws on the reputation it established in the Wiley years.

173 Kind communication from Mr. Stefan Bausenhardt, Wirtschaft zur Stadt Heidenheim, Ulm-Ost.

THE WILEYEARS

CONCERTS

1992

01.07.1992	Incognito
11.07.1992	Die Fantastischen Vier & Blackeyed Blonde
02.08.1992	Linton Kwesi Johnson & Dennis Bovell Dub Band
27.08.1992	Supercharge
03.09.1992	Urban Dance Squad
17.10.1992	Kurtis Blow with Grandmaster Flash & Sugarhill Gang
03.11.1992	Ronny Jordan with Band
13.11.1992	K-Creative & Stereo MC's
28.11.1992	Universal Congress Of

1993

17.02.1993	Soul, Truth & Power (st&p)
04.03.1993	Roy Ayers
20.03.1993	Rad. (Rose Ann Dimalanta) & Incognito
End of March 1993	Nicolette
17.04.1993	Joanna Connor
19.04.1993	The Goats
11.05.1993	Screamin' Jay Hawkins
15.05.1993	Marxman
08.06.1993	Jungle Brothers
29.06.1993	Brecker Brothers & Gil-Scott Heron
30.07.1993	Juke
Middle of September 1993	Tower of Power
08.10.1993	Shaggy

Middle of October 1993	Alexander O'Neal
25.10.1993	Bill Evans (Saxophon)
27.10.1993	La Toya Jackson
03.11.1993	The Crusaders
10.11.1993	Corduroy & Mother Earth
22.11.1993	Humble Souls
End of November 1993	Latin Quarter
26.11.1993	Daryl Hall
01.12.1993	Stephan Remmler & Die Steher
08.12.1993	Bryan Powell & Raw Stylus
Middle of December 1993	Los Vegas

1994

End of March 1994	Maze
22.04.1994	George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic & P-Funk Allstar-Band (= Mothership Connection)
04.05.1994	Dr. John and Band
23.05.1994	Eddie Harris
01.07.1994	Luca Carboni & Band
12.09.1994	Urban Species
18.10.1994	Ben E. King
28.10.1994	Leonardo ‚Flaco‘ Jiménez
02.11.1994	Mike Stern, Jean-Paul Bourelly & The Bluewave Bandits
15.11.1994	James Taylor (Hammond)
05.12.1994	Deee-Lite
08.12.1994	MC Soolar

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