

Nürnberg Alumni Association Online Archive

Nürnberg American High School

a U.S. Army dependents school formerly located in Fürth/Bavaria, Germany

1946-47 School Year

This File: Memoirs and Historical Articles

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3,500 Youths To Answer ET School Bells

The Stars and Stripes Bureau, 1946

FRANKFURT, Sept. 20

According to latest estimates of the Theater Dependents' Education office, about 500 high school and 3,000 grammar and kindergarten children will answer roll call when American schools in Germany open their doors about two weeks from now.

"Screwy population figures" are a headache, officials said, with unexpected demands from smaller communities causing last-minute shifts and even the creation of new schools.

"What we need is portable schoolhouses," one official concluded. A large majority of dependent children are in the lowest primary grades. He added that theater school policy calls for elementary schools to be set up in every community which has ten or more students.

There'll be no truant officers to see that even the grammar-grade youngsters get to classes, for attendance is not compulsory. High school students are expected to attend the nearest one of six centrally located American high schools, commuting by community-arranged transportation if they live within a reasonable distance, or boarding if necessary.

The six schools, together with communities served and expected enrollments are: Berlin (Berlin area), 60 students; Bremen (Grohn, Nordhoz, Wesermeunde) 35; Frankfurt (Bad Nauheim, Bad Wildungen, Darmstadt, Fritzlar, Fulda, Geissen, Hanau, Kassel, Rhein-Main, Wetzlar, Wiesbaden) 163; Heidelberg (Göppingen, Mannheim, Stuttgart) 75; Munich (Augsburg, Bad Tölz, Berchtesgaden, Erding, Fürstenfeldbruck, Garmisch, Kaufbeuren, Landsberg, Landshut, Lechfeld, Murnau, Neubiberg, Oberpfaffen-hoffen, Schleissheim, Sonthofen) 74, **Erlangen (Amberg, Ansbach, Bad Kissingen, Bamberg, Bayreuth, Giebelstadt, Grafenwöhr, Kitzingen, Regensburg, Schweinfurt, Straubing, Wieden, Würzburg, and Nürnberg) 115.**

All schools in the theater may not open on the same day. About a third of the 100 teachers expected in Germany have arrived, and opening date, between October 7 and 16, will depend on when the rest get here, officials said.

– from *AOSHS Quarterly*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Fall 2007

From the pages of an October, 1946 army newspaper article

Courtesy of Marion Kelsch Woods (Class of 1947)

Erlangen Schools Open

The Erlangen Dependents School system sounded the bell for their first classes on Monday, October 21 [1946]. Children from all four corners of the States and from 13 military communities attended.

The elementary school building on Hindenburg Strasse is completely ready and the high school in the old mineralogy building of the Erlangen University should be ready for occupancy [soon] The high school classes are also being held in the elementary school building.*

The curriculum for the high school is equal to a general course in the States. However, the small classes and the excellent teachers will give opportunities that are better than average. Both high school and primary grades expect to take full advantage of the unique opportunity to study European culture as well as giving the standard courses in American history and civics.

The high school, with an enrollment of 59, is giving courses in Math, Biology, American History, English, German, Social Sciences, Music and others. The elementary school has an enrollment of 30 ... but expects a large increase when the next shipments of dependents get here. Classes in the primary grades will not be divided into subjects. . . It's necessary to combine two grades into one class. In these classes, too, instructions will be given in European culture by way of folk dances and songs.

A small lunchroom has been installed in the school building [for] the entire school . . . and [will?] later continue to feed lunch to the primary school. Messing arrangements for high school students are being completed at the Glider mess hall.

The out-of-town high school students are now being boarded here. The girls live in the old WAC barracks while the boys are quartered in Bldg. 9, 40th BW.

From "der Nürnberger Trichter"

Nürnberg Alumni Association

July, 1995

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* The location of the very first classes for Erlangen High School is not clear. Ed Thompson, '51, says the first classes were in a requisitioned German residence in Erlangen. Ted Wilson, '51, says the Erlangen school had its beginning in "the old Schloß Garten just behind the town square." (*Trichter*, Stateside Edition, Dec. 1992, p. 12). The picture at right shows the oldest building at Erlangen University and a portion of the Schloßgarten (castle garden). Because of its proximity to the university, Ted and Ed's location is probably the correct one, not the building on Hindenburgstraße, which is some distance away. All sources agree that after November the classes met in a building at Erlangen University, named by various sources as the science, or mineralogy, or geology building.



Nürnberg American High School

The Early Years

by

Joan Kay (McCarter) Adrian, Class of 1949

The Nürnberg school opened rather late in October 1946 [October 21] in Erlangen, a small city about 20 kilometers north of Nürnberg, rather than in Nürnberg proper, which had been largely destroyed by Allied bombing.. A few of the high schools in other cities (Frankfurt, Munich) opened first, several weeks ahead of Nürnberg. I have a theory that because the War Crimes Trials of the Nazi hierarchy and the hangings of the convicted Nazi leaders occurred in Nürnberg, perhaps the Military Headquarters decided that there might be repercussions from the local population.

Several cities were sub-posts of Nürnberg Headquarters, and dependent children of those personnel stationed in sub-post areas that were more than 50 miles from the school were dormed, going home on Fridays and returning Sunday evenings. House “fathers” and “mothers” were single teachers who lived in the dorms with the 9th through 12th grade students.

For that first winter, the boys were dormed in a former German Army barracks building. They had hot water, but no way of heating the building. The furnaces were old and inoperable. Many of the windows were broken and had been boarded up with wooden shutters. GI cots were used for beds. One of the early male students told me that they would get in the shower and use the hottest water they could stand to get warm – jump out, dry quickly, and then put every piece of clothing on that they had and jump into bed with as many covers as they could get hold of.

One bitterly cold night, one of the boys [Sherrill Fetzer, says Ed Thompson] decided to build a fire so they could all get warm. He used one of the large metal garbage cans from the kitchen and filled it with paper and any scrap wood they could find, including an old wooden chair.

The high school was small, [between 70 and 75 students, according to the *Army Brat*] for the 9th through 12 grades. Numbers fluctuated throughout those first few years, since troops were being moved about to more strategic areas as tension between the U.S. and Russia began to escalate.

As buildings were repaired and put into more livable conditions, troop units would be moved in. Many of the early students that attended high schools in Europe for three or four years would attend from two to four different schools.

The first graduating class of 1947 had eight students. They were sent to Munich to graduate with that school since it was larger and it would be a more ceremonious occasion for the small Erlangen group.

Security was high during those first years. There were curfews for locals as well as military personnel. All families were given evacuation plans and gathering points in case war broke out with Russia. The black market was rampant and everyone bartered. Cigarettes, chocolate, coffee, lard, just about anything could be bartered for Deutsch Marks.

As American dependents we could travel free on all German buses and streetcars. The railroads were under military control and special cars for “Americans Only” were available and prices very low. American money was used in the post exchanges and all military recreation and service club areas. Money was printed for the occupation forces, all paper, even the nickels, dimes, and quarters.

Students were taken on field trips to observe some of the later war trials in progress at the Palace of Justice, or to the post theater to view two hours of some of the concentration camp films being used as evidence at the trials. Socializing with locals was discouraged, so our only contact was with service people – maids, waiters, clerks in the PX.

It was an experience that all of us as young teenagers felt formed our education and outlook on war, formed a curiosity about all foreign countries and an appreciation for history.

Remembering Nürnberg, 1946-1950

by Marion Kelsch Woods ('47)

My brother Leo and I arrived in Nürnberg in Dec. of 1946 with our mother. My father had been sent there prior to our arrival. It was very cold with much snow, and we had an interesting train ride from Bremerhaven to Nürnberg. We spent most of Christmas vacation at Linde Stadium, a recreation center for U.S. personnel. This is where the Germans practiced for the 1936 Winter Olympic games. It had an Olympic-size swimming pool, ice skating rink, snack bar, library, and game room.

We heard tales (and they were probably true) that there were 10,000 bodies yet buried in the Old City.

The Germans snickered at our rolled-up jeans and saddle shoes. We rode the school bus from Nürnberg to the University of Erlangen, where the first Nürnberg High School was located. A Polish D.P. (Displaced Person) was our driver. For many mysterious reasons, the bus was either late or didn't arrive at all. Principal William Ashley wrote to our parents with explanations many times.

I feel very privileged to have been part of field trips to the Nürnberg War Crimes Trials. Two particular trials are very clear in my mind: the woman who made lamp shades from skin from prisoners who were killed and cremated in concentration camps, and the other one was Hitler's private physician.

We had some school dances at the Dependents Club; at the Valentine's Dance Mary Margaret "Queenie" Ellis was crowned queen by Gen. Leroy Watson. The prom was at Stein Castle. [The *Army Brat* said it was in the German Youth Center] I was captain of the cheerleading squad. Our colors were red and white, and the school mascot was the Tiger.

There were eight of us who graduated in the first class of NHS in 1947. Since it was so small a class, we were combined with Munich High School, and the ceremony was held at das Haus der Kunst. Gen. Max Schneider (father of our classmate Max Jr.) gave the commencement address. Our diplomas, which were very attractive, were bound with black leather from S.S. jackets and boots; the insides of

the diplomas were made from the orange silk lining fabric.

Leo and I made the trip to St. Moritz, Switzerland, for the 1948 Winter Olympic Games. We stayed in Davos, a short distance from St. Moritz. We saw skaters Dick Button and Barbara Ann Scott, both gold medal winners.

When Rosemary "Cookie" Cook's mother, who was a court reporter, was transferred to Vienna for more trials, I visited Rosemary in Oct. 1948. We decided to ride the Strassenbahn through all four sectors of the city: American, Russian, French, and British. We were very brave young girls to do this and naturally we got lost while going through all the sectors, ending up in the Russian sector. Luckily we made it home safely.

Leo and I were vacationing with our parents at Berchtesgaden, and while there we had the opportunity to introduce waterskiing on Lake Königsee.

We left for the States in 1949, and returned in 1950. In November of 1950, I married Tom Woods whom I had met early in 1948. My two classmates, Jeanette Hembree ('50) and Geraldine Cook ('49), were my bridesmaids. Tom and I honeymooned in Switzerland for one month.

I feel very fortunate to have had the experience of seeing history being made.



First diploma and the folder made of materials from SS troops' jackets and boots

“Erinnerungen” by Ed Thompson ('50)

On August 25, 1946, we docked at Bremerhaven aboard the USS Goetheles, a converted troop transport, though the only conversion was by having reduced the stacking of the bunk beds from four to three; otherwise it was just the way it had been during WWII. We disembarked the next morning and immediately boarded a train, arrived in Bamberg on August 7, 1946, and remained there until April 1949.

We did not know if there was going to be a school system for American dependent school children. We thought it was possible that we might have to attend a German school, but, after an extended summer vacation, American schools did open and classes began in October, 1946.

I was a freshman and one of the charter members of NHS. The school building now occupied is actually the fourth building to be used by NHS. The first classes were held in a house, formerly a private residence. The freshmen met in the dining room; the sophomores in the living room; and the juniors and seniors had classes upstairs.

The weather was rainy and cold, but several of us would go out during lunch hour in the muddy back yard and play touch football. There were a couple of occasions when we were sent back to the dorm to change clothes. I became famous for being on the losing side 46 times out of 47 games. I also became well known for running into trees on a regular basis, going out for passes.

When we first arrived in Bamberg, there was only one other boy my age. Richard “Dickie” Dugan and his sister Helen lived about three blocks from us. At the time school had started, several families had arrived so there were five or six of us to enroll in high school. I am the only one of that original Bamberg group to have been located.

There are a few of those charter NHS members who have been located: Stanley Rackin was one of



Back row: Doug and Jack Myrah and Eddie Thompson; Kneeling, Louis Roffey

those who played football in the backyard of the original school building. Duane “Pudge” Willsie was a member of the first senior class and returned as a volunteer to help coach the first football team the second year. He was a player-coach and was seriously injured in a game and was sent back to the States for medical attention. Interestingly enough, he was injured tackling Ned Poinier, who was playing for the other team. Sherrill Fetzer and Marion and Leo Kelsch were there that first year, as was Max Schneider, Peggy Segur, Don Barnett, Diane DeMartino, all of the Kales, and Mary Margaret Ellis.

The first boys’ dorm was an old GI barracks at the Erlangen Air Force base. We had hot water but no other heat, and we about froze during those early days. During the time in the barracks Sherrill Fetzer became renowned for starting a fire in a metal waste can in an effort to keep warm. Later we moved into what had been a private home.

After Thanksgiving, classes were moved into the science building, (the 2nd location) at Erlangen University; it was the following year that classes started at 19 Tannenstrasse, Furth (the 3rd location).

While in Erlangen the only sports we played were basketball and baseball. The basketball team practiced and had games in the Air Force base gym. Our first coaches were Special Services enlisted men assigned to the gym to sign out equipment. For the first three years of our existence we were dependent upon Special Services for all equipment and uniforms. We had only four basketball games that first year with Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Munich and Weisbaden.

Originally our teams were known as the TIGERS, and this remained [true] at least through 1948-49, and the school colors were red and white. When we tried to get red jerseys for the football team in Sept. 1948, there were no red ones available; the only ones that were available were

green. The football team thought it might be rather strange if the cheerleaders were wearing red, and cheering for red and white, while we were wearing green uniforms. As a result they asked that we change the school colors to green and white. They have remained green and white ever since. This did, however, create very real problems for the cheerleaders because they had difficulty finding material for green skirts.

Those of us who lived in the dorm in Erlangen had our first meals in the Army mess hall at the Erlangen Air Force base. It was rumored that the building had originally been a stable for the German artillery during WW I. The girls sure did get the “once-over” by all the GIs in the mess hall. At the first meal a German girl was singing “Sentimental Journey,” which was a popular song following WWII. At that time I thought the German accent was funny but soon became used to it.

That first year in Germany really opened my eyes to the hunger and hardship of the



“Occasionally we DID study” –Ed Thompson

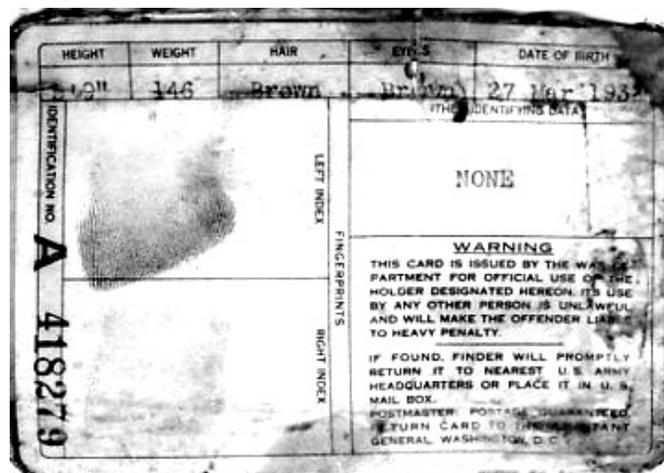
German civilians. One time in the early early months, a small carnival came to Bamberg. I didn’t have any money, but for five chocolate bars I was able to spend most of the day on the rides.

My uncle, with whom I was living, located many orphanages during the time that he was overseas and tried to obtain supplies for the children. There were five or six orphanages in Bamberg, and he became well known at all of them. That first Christmas was looking pretty bleak for them, so my aunt and mother started contacting all sorts of organizations back in the States: churches, Red Cross, family, and friends for help. Our house became a clearing house

when the parcels began to arrive. We sorted all the gifts by sizes of clothing and type of toy, etc., and began preparing packages for all of the children. My uncle discovered a warehouse full of old tentage, rotted in spots from a leak in the roof. Rather than having it destroyed, he gave the material to some local nuns, and they used the material to make every boy a pair of embroidered short trousers and a skirt for every girl.

Most of the large downtown stores were closed and empty. My uncle obtained permission to use one of them, and we held a Christmas party for all of the Bamberg orphans. All of the American teenagers helped wrap and distribute the gifts. We were Santa’s helpers in red suits. I was assigned to the deaf-mute children; they almost trampled me when we started serving popcorn and punch.

I was the last of the original students at NHS in Erlangen to leave Nürnberg in April, 1949. A few others remained in Germany, but they had transferred to other schools by then.



ID card of Edward A. Thompson

[At a Golden Oldies Reunion in Wichita, KS, Sept. 30, 2005, Ed Thompson added some memories to his account of his days at NHS. Peggy (Segur) Misch, '48, was there as well and also commented on her experiences in 1946-47.]

“Ed Thompson, '50, one of the first to arrive in fall, 1946, attended some of the sessions of the Nürnberg War Trials. These were the medical trials, not the earlier more famous trials of the Nazi leaders. His most vivid memory was of the testimony of a woman who had survived her concentration camp experience. She was the only person in her family who did. She would tell a little of her story and then would be overcome emotionally and have to be excused. After a while, she would come back and continue her story, only to break down again.

Ed said he attributed his subsequent career choice of social work in part to the stories of man's inhumanity to man that he saw and heard in Germany. He wanted to do what he could to remedy this misery.”

“Peggy (Segur) Misch, '48, who came to Nürnberg in 1946, remembered . . . the bitter cold winter of that year.

She lived in the requisitioned building [old WAC Barracks] in Erlangen that was the girls' dormitory. Getting hot water for bathing was a problem. A gas heater had to be turned on to heat the bath water. Because there was danger of asphyxiation from the heater, the window in the bathroom had to be wide open while the water was being heated – so it was hot water but cold air. She said that the girls bathed only twice a week.

A vivid school memory was watching Army training films on syphilis and gonorrhea. There were separate showings for boys and girls. This was P.E.”

--Both memoirs from NAA *Trichter*, (fall, 2005), p. 18.

Claris Glick honored with a Premium Paver By American Overseas Schools Historical Society

[Claris Glick, one of seven named teachers in the “Army Brat,” taught English and sponsored the newspaper in the first year of Erlangen High School]

Claris Glick was a high school English teacher, who early in her career took time off from teaching to work as a typist for the FBI in Washington, D.C.; as an airport traffic controller in Shreveport, LA and Austin, TX and as a reporter for newspapers in Temple, Abilene, and San Angelo, TX. She obviously enjoyed new adventures.

Claris' father, Walter R. Glick, was Dean of Texas Wesleyan College, and was recruited to be the first superintendent in Munich, Germany when the military's overseas schools opened in 1946. Claris went along, and was assigned as an English teacher at Nürnberg HS. Her stepmother, Marie, followed later, teaching at the Munich HS.

“Although the school was thought of in connection with Nürnberg, the city itself was too badly bombed for us to live there. The teachers were housed in a large private house in Erlangen, about 20 miles from Nürnberg. The train took us to Nürnberg daily. The military drove us to the train in jeeps. [Other sources say the school that year was in Erlangen, and after Thanksgiving housed in an Erlangen University building.– Ed.]

“The students were all bused to school. Besides having students of Army personnel, there were children of the judges and U.S. workers at the Nürnberg War Crimes trials. It was a diverse, interesting group. HS students attended the trials as part of their studies.



“After that very cold year, I missed the Texas sunshine, and returned to the US via ship. As soon as I hit Texas, I knew I wanted to go back to Germany, so I began applying for a second stint. Three years later, in 1950, I was back in Nürnberg, where the teachers were now quartered at the Grand Hotel, just across from the Bahnhof. We could go right across the street to begin our holiday travels. We taught in Fürth in a German school building.

“During my last year there, the teachers were moved to new quarters to live in Fürth, and to new school buildings. Ungratefully, I liked the

German buildings better.”

Comments prepared from her memories by Claris Glick, written June 2000.

Claris left Nürnberg in 1952, returning to Austin, TX to work on her Ph.D., which she earned in 1956. She then taught in universities in North Carolina, Kansas, Arizona, Saskatchewan and Texas. Being overseas for a total of three years gave Claris a real urge to continue traveling, and she did, visiting countries all around the world.

Claris is now in her 80's, living in Fort Worth, TX. She has Parkinson's Disease, but recalls her adventurous life as “fun”! [Claris Glick died Aug. 27, 2004. – Ed.]

Source: <http://www.aoshs.com/kiosk/memorial/MemorialDisplay.asp> [retrieved March 21, 2008]

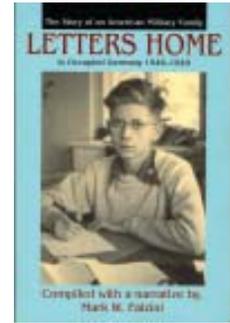
Excerpts from

LETTERS HOME

The Story of an American Military Family
in Occupied Germany, 1946-1949

Permission to post these pages from *Letters Home* has been given by the author, Mark W. Falzini.

Compiled with a narrative by,
Mark W. Falzini



Letters Home is probably the most important primary historical source of the early years of Nürnberg American High School because, unlike the other memoirs and articles in this file, the letters of the title were written at the time the writers were in Germany.

The military family of the title is the Kales, stationed in Würzburg, four of whose seven children attended the Erlangen and/or Nürnberg High School. Barbara, “Barby,” Kale was one of four seniors in the second graduating class in 1948. Don and Dick Kale were underclassmen. “Bub” (pictured on the book’s cover) attended the school from its first year until graduating in the NHS class of 1949. The parents were Major Samuel S. Kale, the Displaced Persons Officer for the Unterfranken area, and Julia Kale.

All of the Kales wrote letters to their relatives back in New Jersey. Dad and Mom’s letters are short, mostly personal, dealing with family matters. Barby, Don, and Dick wrote only obligatory letters to their grandparents. Bub is the prolific letter writer. His letters are lengthy, filled with details, and reflect his many interests – one of which eventually led to a Ph.D. in ornithology. Bub’s



Herbert W. “Bub” Kale, II,
NHS class of 1949

letters make this book historically significant.

Mark Falzini, son of Barbara (Kale) Falzini and a professional archivist, summarizes the historical backdrop for the letters in Part I of the book. His ten-page account of those first school days in a dependent school are excerpted below, followed by three of Bub’s (unedited) letters.

Letters Home is much broader in scope than the sections posted here that emphasize Bub Kale’s school experience. Many will want to read these historically significant letters in their entirety: “part travelogue, part eyewitness account to the War Crimes Trials, part brand new material on the plight of the DPs – the refugees unwelcome in Germany and unable to go back to their homelands for fear of what the Russians would do to them.”

As of this posting, you can purchase a copy of *Letters Home* on amazon.com or get an autographed copy by writing to Mark Falzini, 524 Walker Ave., West Trenton, NJ 08628 or e-mailing him, mwfalzini@verizon.net.

– Bob McQuitty

From Mark Falzini’s Introductory Section:

School

After the war, the military established schools for children of the soldiers throughout the American Zone of Occupation. Elementary schools were established locally, wherever there was a group of ten or more school age children. High school level boarding schools were located in the towns of Nürnberg, Frankfurt, Munich, Heidelberg and Berlin. [According to *Stars and Stripes*, a sixth school was in

Bremen.– Ed.]

The schools received their accreditation from the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, and their classes were formulated by the teachers at conferences during the summer of 1946. The courses of study were uniform throughout the American Zone. Therefore, if a soldier was transferred to a different post, his child would not fall behind the rest of the students in his or her class.

Lula Dalton was a teacher at one of the American

schools in Germany. She later wrote that “the Dependents School Division of the European Command was established in [May] 1946 with a two-fold purpose: 1) to organize and maintain schools in military communities in Germany; and 2) to supply German educators with a model American school system in action from which to draw inspiration for the reorganization and democratization of the German educational program.” [quoted in *1949 Erinnerungen*, p. 9]

The Kale children attended school in two different towns. The youngest children, including Don, who was in eighth grade in 1947, attended school in Würzburg. The nearest high school for Barbara, Dick, Bub, and eventually Don, was sixty miles to the south just outside Nürnberg. Other students came in from Regensburg, Augsburg, Bad Kissingen and Bamberg and everyone stayed there all week. “We went down on Sunday night and stayed there and then we came home on Friday afternoon . . . We only went home on the weekends.”

Originally, the “school bus” that took the students to and from the towns where they lived was either a 2 1/2 ton truck or a military ambulance. “They finally got a car on a train on Sunday afternoons, and on Friday night the ‘bus’ would pick us up at Nürnberg and take us back. It was about a 2 1/2 hour ride.” By September 1948, the trucks and ambulance were no longer used as the students were now able to ride the local train to and from Nürnberg. An MP rode along on the train as well for their protection.

Nürnberg, located in the heart of Bavaria, is a medieval city famous for its toys, its castle, its Christmas marketplace and for being the home of both Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and the 15th Century artist, Albrecht Dürer. Unfortunately, in the 20th Century, the town also became infamous for being the ideological center of Nazi Germany. Adolf Hitler was obsessed with the glories of Germany’s past and since Nürnberg was steeped in German history, he chose it as the site for his annual Nazi rallies. Because of this, Nürnberg [was] heavily bombed by the British on the night of January 2, 1945. A year later, groups of American high school students were calling this town home.

Classes began in the village of Erlangen, about 15.5 miles north of Nürnberg on October 21 [approximately a week after their scheduled opening – Ed.] . . .

The Kale children attended Erlangen High School beginning in February 1947. . . .

The overall boarding school experience had a strong impact on the military dependents. While at school, all of the students did everything together. “It wasn’t just your

grade; it was all grades that socialized together. And you stayed in the dormitory together, and those that lived in Nürnberg and commuted to school every day, they would be with us too.”

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Although the students were living in a foreign country, devastated by war, the military tried to make their school life as normal as possible. [Erlangen High School] had a four-page weekly school paper called *The Army Brat*. The cover page discussed all of the current events of the school. There was an editorial page that contained both an editorial and a weekly review on manners and a personality story on one of the students. The school also had a yearbook. The yearbooks issued in 1947 and 1948 were rather primitive compared to the later editions. . . . [The 1947 yearbook was mimeographed – Ed.]

Sports played a large role in life at the American military schools. While in Erlangen, the only sports played were basketball and baseball. . . . Unlike schools in the United States, the schools in Germany had freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors all on the same team.

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When not in class, the kids would usually go to the movies or, like most teenagers, they would typically get into trouble. “We used to go places that were off-limits.” Everything that was German was “off-limits” to the American children. That, however, did not stop them from visiting German pubs. Barbara, her brothers and their friends were known to visit a Gasthaus located between Würzburg and Giebelstadt. Most of the time they would drink either wine or schnapps. Initially, after the war, the alcohol in Germany was not top quality. “One thing, though, once the Marshall Plan took hold, the beer improved.”

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It was too dangerous for the girls to travel far off campus. The boys, however, had more opportunity to explore. Sometimes they would just take a toothbrush and whenever they had time off from school they would go off and travel. The boys could do it by themselves, but the girls couldn’t.

[The students from outlying areas lived in “dormitories” near the school, the girls in the old WAC barracks, the boys in Bldg. 9, 40th BW on the air force base. – Ed.]

Barbara . . . remembers her room in Erlangen. “There were two other girls that shared my room, and at about six o’clock in the morning, this little German man would come into our room and fix our stove – you know, stoke the

coal so that it gets warmer. He used to bump my bed *all* the time. We had . . . army cots with metal at the end.” The dorms were supervised by an adult. . . .

The families paid \$2 per month for dormitory expenses and the students were furnished, initially, with sheets and pillowcases. . . .

In addition to paying for dormitory supplies, there was also a monthly charge for meals. The cost of food was \$1.00 per day: 25 cents for breakfast, 35 cents for lunch and 40 cents for dinner. In Erlangen, the girls would have their Sunday dinner at the Officer’s Club and the boys would have their meals in the Kaiserhof, where they would be joined by the girls during the rest of the week. . . .

During dinner, for entertainment, someone would walk around through all the tables playing the violin. Also during dinner, some of the boys would put Jello on their spoon and flip it up trying to get it into the chandeliers.

. . . .

The American Red Cross did quite a bit to help keep the students in Germany entertained. The Kales especially appreciated the work of the Red Cross as Bub explained to his grandparents:

“One can never really appreciate them enough until they serve you personally. Everything would just be plain dull – boring – if it weren’t for them. They have dances, lounges, books, etc. In Erlangen they run the best swimming pool I’ve ever seen and snack bar with it. They also have volley ball, badminton, and miniature golf. I don’t now what we’d do without the Red Cross.”

. . . .

Overall, the interaction between the Germans and Americans was positive, yet it was difficult to meet the local Germans on your own. Usually, if they saw American kids approaching they would cross the street and avoid them. For the most part, the Germans would just laugh at the Americans. The American teenagers used to wear dungarees and they would roll up the pant-legs half-way up the calf. The Germans would point at them and laugh.

There was the rare occasion, however, when a brawl would break out between the Americans and the Germans, According to Don [Kale], “In all the time that I was over there, there was only one incident where we had to fight the Germans. We were getting off the train. . .

and were walking to school, it was like a three block walk. A bunch of German kids, I guess they wanted to beat us up. They taunted us and kicked us. But there were too many of us, I guess. They just ran off. That was the only time I recall ever having a run-in with the Germans.”

Like their counterparts in the States, the American schools in Germany conducted field trips for the students. One of the most memorable trips for the Kales was to the Palace of Justice in Nürnberg to attend a session of the *Nürnberg War Trials*. Barbara, Bub, Dick and their classmates attended a session of the trial of the Nazi doctors

The students did not have to wait for a field trip to attend the trials. They were able to go to the trials whenever they wanted to, after school for instance. They would take a trolley into the town center. When they went, they sat in the balcony. There was a headset next to each seat with a dial; it was for listening to the trial in French, German, Italian, English or Russian. Barbara recalled that “we would sit there listening and someone would switch the dial to German or Russian and it would suddenly be real loud and you would jump! Unfortunately, we took a lot of this history for granted.”

– Mark W. Falzini, *Letters Home*, pp. 10-21.

A Letter by Bub Kale

Visiting the Nürnberg War Trials

[March 1947]

Dear Chief Davey, [Bub Kale's scoutmaster in New Jersey]

First of all I had better tell you where we go to school and why. Because Würzburg is in the Erlangen High School district, we go to school there. Erlangen is a little over 95 kilometers to the southeast of Würzburg (65 to 70 miles away—a kilometer is equal to three/fifths of a mile). Because it is so far away we live there during the week in dormitories and are only home for weekends.

Our citizenship class was the only one which went that week [to the War Trials]. There were only about fifteen of us, so it wasn't too crowded. We left in the Nürnberg school bus on its return trip after it had brought the Nürnberg "kids" to school. Nürnberg is only about twenty-five kilometers south of Erlangen.

The topography of the land surrounding us was just as it is all over northern and central Germany—sloping and curving. Surrounding us were clumps of evergreens with maybe a mile or so of space between each clump—the distance was variable. Sometimes they were in the shape of a rectangle or circle and they varied in size. Some were only fifty feet in length, others over a mile in length. The trees in the middle were usually taller than the trees on the outer edge, giving an appearance of an umbrella. There was no underbrush under these very straight and tall pines except in a very few places. Germany was and I guess still is proud of her tall and well kept forests. Now many of the trees are being used for fuel, and it is not a too uncommon sight to see gaping holes in some sections of these forests. But, fortunately, they aren't all in one spot—instead it is spread out and there is not too much cutting in any one section.

As we neared Nürnberg, signs of war began to appear. No bombs landed in Erlangen. In fact, you wouldn't even know there had been a war except for the dress of the people. There was one house that had two roofs—one on top of the other—the top roof being the one that was destroyed. On other houses there was evidence of strafing and machine gun fire. There were shell marks starting from the foot of one house leading right up the side to the roof.

When we entered Nürnberg—another almost totally destroyed city—the first thing I noticed were tall buildings (some buildings are still there). There are no high buildings over here.

The famous Nürnberg prison, [Palace of Justice] where the trials are taking place, was a little disappointing to me when I first saw it. It is very large, but not as big as I thought it would be. There are no big spacious lawns around it (I don't know what gave me the idea that there would be,

though) only small ones that outline it. Lying all around it are houses, factories, stores, etc. It's not as isolated as I thought it would be, although it is not in the center of the city.

At the main entrance we climbed only about six or eight steps (again I had overestimated the size). After we entered the prison, we turned in at the first door to our left and received our passes and seat numbers after we had shown our AGO cards (Adjutant Generals Office). We were then taken to the Military Tribunal One war trials courtroom.

When we entered the visitors gallery which overlooks the courtroom (in other words, it's a balcony) we found—I mean should have found—our respective seats. As there were no other visitors, *we* took any seat we wished. Most of us sat in the front row because that was the only row that had ear-phones.

On the arm of each seat was an instrument called the translator—it looked like the dial of a loud speaker. It had six numbers on the face of it and the turn of a switch gave you the number you desired. Number one was English and German both (no interpreting). Number two was all in English (an interpreter in one corner of the courtroom translated the German into English). Number three was all in German (for the defendants' benefit.) Numbers four, five and six were not used at these trials, because only the United States was trying these criminals. From these translators two wires led to a pair of detachable ear-phones that fit over your head. At first, there were not enough ear-phones to go around, so we detached them and used only one of them. If you could understand both German and English, the ear phones were not even needed because the acoustics were very good.

Altogether there was only a little more than fifty people in the courtroom. There were twenty-three defendants, nine defense attorneys that were present at the time, six interpreters, reporters, clerks, pages, physician, security officer, visitors, and the various other officials, including the four judges which are also the jury.

The members of the Tribunal are: *Presiding Judge Walter B. Beals, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Washington; Judge Harold L. Serbring, Judge of the Supreme Court of Florida;* (his son, Tom Serbring, [spelled Sebring in the yearbook] is a senior in Erlangen High); *Judge Johnson Tat Crawford, former Justice of the Oklahoma District Court, Ada, Okla;* and *Alternate Judge Victor C. Swearingen, Former assistant Attorney General of Michigan.*

The guards held my attention more than the defendants did. The MPs were in full uniform. Red braid was on their right shoulder and yellow braid on their left. They wore very bright blue scarfs and the white belts and helmets of the Constab. (The Constabulary is our State Police). To obtain one of these blue scarfs and the brilliant yellow scarfs of the Constab and a white scarf of the regular MPs is the ambition of every girl in the E.T.

There were three MPs behind the defendants, two at the door, one beside the witness stand, and a few others that were sitting down near the Security Officer. His seat is in front of the press gallery.

The prosecution will take about two months and then the defense will probably take two or three months as each defendant is taken one at a time. No doubt that by the time this letter is printed the prosecution will just about be over.

The defendant in the witness box at the time I was there was General Siegfried Handloser—Chief of the Medical Services of the Wehrmacht (German Armed Forces) and Medical Inspector of the Army.

The prosecutor was trying to make Handloser admit that he was at certain meetings pertaining to unlawful experiments on human beings. Practically every question that the prosecutor asked, Handloser tried his best to evade. Once or twice he was just plain ridiculous and the prosecutor told him so. It was pretty hard for us and even for some of the officials, I suppose, to hold back our laughter.

At about ten-thirty there was a fifteen minute rest period. Everyone stood up as the judges left—that is everyone except us. We didn't know that we were supposed to. The defendants were then taken two at a time out of the courtroom.

Just before the proceedings were resumed a captain came up and told us to stand up when the judges came in and went out. He was nice about it and answered some of our many questions for us.

After the fifteen minute recess was up, the trial went on as before, with Handloser evading every question asked him—his favorite answer was “I don't remember. It is too long ago and my memory is not clear.”

At times it was easy to see that the prosecutor had his range. He, the prosecutor, seemed at times to have Handloser “trapped”, but Handloser would then resort to his favorite answer. With all the evidence against him, it seems queer to deny almost everything. To avoid one question he even asked the prosecutor not to use one word which had been in the sentence (the word happened to be “*deny*”) because in German it is a harsh word. I noticed that the prosecutor didn't repeat the question.

At 12:30 the Tribunal recessed for lunch and I with a few other kids went out in the hall and stood near the door through which the defendants would leave the courtroom. In a few minutes they walked out, or, I should say, shuffled out. All of them had their eyes on the floor and looked very crestfallen and beaten—that is all except one Herta Oberhauser, the only woman on trial. She was a physician at the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, and was one of the main participants in the Sulfanilamide Experiments (Count Two—War Crimes). She seemed quite content with herself at the time. After the prisoners went to their respective places, we went down to one of the big cafeterias below the prison and ate.

After we had eaten we wandered around the prison for about half an hour. I surely did underestimate the inside of it. The halls and corridors, upstairs and downstairs and the many other entrances and exits and dead ends to this or that room or corridor make Trenton High look like a little grade school. If you have never been in THS [Trenton High School], you will some day and you'll know what I mean. Of course once you know it, it's easy and I suppose this building is no exception.

Around 1:30 *we* went back to the courtroom and found our old seats. There were enough ear-phones now because most of the kids went down stairs to the press gallery which was almost empty. After the tribunal was seated, the defense attorney for Dr. Karl Brandt, Hitler's personal physician, stood up before the court and asked if his “client” could be excused after the next recess for the rest of the afternoon. The reason for this was that the morning's proceedings had been very trying on his nerves and he was too run-down to continue with the proceedings. The attorney also stated that his client demands more food because he does not get enough. Judge Beals told the court that Brandt would first have to have a medical examination before he could be excused. He made no comment on the food situation.

The trial then went on as before—Handloser still in the witness box. Some witnesses were going to be brought in a little later on in the afternoon, and I hoped that we would be there to see them, but, unfortunately, we had to go back to school on the Nürnberg bus, so at two o'clock we left.

It had gotten much warmer out since morning and the snow was almost melted away. We then climbed aboard the bus that took us back to our own prison—school.

Bub Kale

– Mark W. Falzini, *Letters Home*, pp. 61-64.

Bub Kale Writing about School

Dear [Everybody]

Mar. 9, 1947

How is everybody? Here's the letter I said I would write, but I don't know what to write about—you will have to ask more questions. I'm telling you about the ship in the Scout Trail, (It ought to be in it pretty soon) so I won't say anything about it now. I know what to write about!—Erlangen and school.

Every week an ambulance leaves Würzburg at 2:00 and takes us to our dormitories (the boys have one in one part of Erlangen and the girls in another part) We usually get there in about 1 1/2 to 2 hrs. (it is 60 miles south east away). We get there about 5 pm and after getting straightened out we (the boys – there are 14 of us) go to the Kaiserhof to eat and the girls go to the Officers Mess at the Air Base (only on Sundays). The Kaiserhof is a hotel that is used as an officers and dependents mess, and a place where single officers sleep. After mess we usually go to the movies. (We have been going to school 4 weeks now, but we didn't go the week they had exams (because we already have our credits) that was the last week of Feb).

We started Feb. 10 – 1 month after we left school in Trenton [New Jersey]. After the movies (8:30) is over we sometimes go to the Red Cross Town House, where ice cream and cakes, sandwiches and donuts are sold. Then we go back to our dorms. We have to be in bed by 10 pm every night and we get up usually around 7:30 each morning and the bus gets here around 8 o'clock and takes us to the Kaiserhof for breakfast. The service in the Kaiserhof is awful at times mostly because we only have one waiter or waitress for all of the kids from the dorms, which is probably over 30. The officers and other grown ups get good service though. And if we sit up on the upper "deck" (the floor is divided into levels) we get good service. The food is mostly just to look at; it looks good but doesn't always taste that way. (We pay 25 ¢ for each meal) (It is \$8.00 month tuition).

We then walk to school, just a block away. The school is in the Geology Building of Friedrich University which is mostly called Erlangen University. (I'll send you a booklet on Erlangen. It is much bigger than the little one and tells the history of Erlangen, I wish Würzburg had these kind of books too.) There are about 80 pupils altogether in the school (it is from the 9th grade up to the 12th) and 7 teachers.

The only languages that are taught here are German and English which means that I lose 1/2 a credit in Latin; I had English Lit in THS [Trenton High School] and now in Erlangen HS I have it again so I will probably lose 1/2 credit on this too. There is no way I can make it up either (here that is). I will get 1/2 credit in German though.

Citizenship is a freshman course but I am taking it because it is the closest course to Loly [loyalty] which is required in THS. Every once in a while the different grades get to go to the Nürnberg Trials. I went with the freshman class because I am in their civics class. The sophomores, juniors and seniors went the week before we started school.

There are 7 periods a day. 1st per I have Study Hall. 2nd per—Pl. Geom. (That is easy now because the schools here are a month behind the U.S. We will get out July 12). 3rd per—Tutoring German (as it is called). We were lucky—we came just the week that over 10 new pupils started. So a new Beginners German Class was started. 4th per.—Study Hall—Lunch – 5th per. English, 6th per. Citizenship, 7th period—Study Hall. I type this period though (it is the only place I can type my letters to The Scout Trail.) [Bub Kale was a Boy Scout and he wrote articles for his scout magazine in New Jersey.] Each period is about 40 min. long. We get out of school at 3:25 pm.

After school the boys are allowed to go anyplace they want, (There aren't many places to go to though) if another boy is with them until 5:30 when we go to eat. The girls can't go anyplace though after school, except to the PX on Mon. the "Town House" on Tues. and horseback riding if they have a note from their parents. Every place they go they have to have a chaperone though. On Wednesday night everybody has the night out. (Not alone though). First we go to the movies and then we go to the Red Cross dance afterwards or we just go to the dance—you take your choice. By 10 we are back in the dorms though.

I met a boy by the name of Helmut Schmidt (He is German) that has had 3 yrs. of English and can speak it pretty well! I have been at his house a few times and took him and his mother & father, who own a stationary store things such as coffee, apples, canned bacon, candy, etc. They said that that is just like Christmas Time to them, because for 7 yrs. now they have not been able to by things like that. In return they gave me postcards, colored pencils etc, (things I wanted) I wanted to pay for them but they said "no" because they really owe me something, they think it is hard for me to get these things.

I'll send you some postcards in a little while. They also gave me a "Prewar" teddy bear for Linda.

Today all the scrip money in the E.T. was changed—instead of having a blue-green tint it is red—the denominations are the same though. The reason for this is that the Germans are counterfeiting it by the thousands and the army is "out-smarting" them. I bet many a German is now bankrupt. We didn't know about the change until this morning and all the money in the E.T. had to be changed in by 2 pm this afternoon. In other words it was a Military Secret. Because the new money is already made and is being exchanged. I am keeping 15¢ of the old scrip so I'll send you the "5¢" piece for the "Record" again. You will probably have a big scrap book or something when we get home.

– Mark W. Falzini, *Letters Home*, pp 65-66.