

# Nürnberg Alumni Association Online Archive

## Nürnberg American High School

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

# 1994-95 School Year

**49th year of the school's existence,**

**year of its closing**

**Graduating Class of 1995**

**This File:**

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Comments, corrections, and further contributions to the Nürnberg Alumni Association Archives should be sent to the NAA Archivist/Historian

# The STARS and STRIPES

Vol. 53, No. 194

50¢

Friday, October 28, 1994

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## Judgment at Nürnberg

### Bavarian community to disband during '95

By RON JENSEN  
Nürnberg bureau

FÜRTH, Germany — The Nürnberg military community, with roots in the final days of World War II, will cease to exist by the end of 1995, with most facilities and personnel gone by Sept. 30.

The only remnant of a community that as recently as four years ago boasted a population of 37,500 will be the American Forces Network broadcasting station on William O. Darby Casern in Fürth, where it will remain.

But even that possibility is

■ Mainz also hit hard  
■ Drawdown chart

— See Page 4

questioned by AFN officials.

Gone in August and September will be an exchange and commissary that still attract shoppers from a wide geographic region. Gone also will be the Bavarian American Hotel constructed by the Third Reich in the 1930s to house Nazi leaders when Nürnberg was site

See DISBAND on Page 4



### 29 Army installations to close in round 17

By EFFIE BATHEN  
Heidelberg bureau

The demise of the Nürnberg military community dominates the European drawdown list issued Thursday by the U.S. military.

The announcement — the 17th in a series that began four years ago — lists 29 Army installations, including 10 in Nürnberg, and one Air Force site to be returned to the German government. The deadline is Oct. 1, 1996, although some closures will occur sooner.

The closure of the Martin Luther King Village housing area in Mainz means the loss of 672 government apartments and significantly reduces the U.S. presence in that city.

In addition, nine Army units will withdraw from Europe, affecting 998 military, eight civilian and 21 local national positions.

Also, the former Army hospital in Frankfurt, pre-See CLOSE on Page 2





# NHS Trichter



"der Nürnberger Trichter, sicher und schnell, macht die Köpfe hell!"

Stateside Edition

Nürnberg Alumni Association, Inc.

December, 1994

Volume VI, No. 3

## NHS to Close this Spring

By Gila Erving Montfort ('65)



Nürnberg, Germany: Returning from Christmas break in January 1952, the students of Nürnberg American High School found themselves in a new location. In 1995 the students at NHS who just returned from Christmas break, did so for the last time.

We all knew it was coming and now it is official. The class of 1995 is the last class to graduate from NHS. In talking with Mike Thompson, principal, we've learned that there will be approximately 42 seniors graduating.

Right now, an exact date has not been set. Mike indicated that June 12 is possible, but he's hoping the district will move the date up to the end of May. At press time, we didn't have final word.

We would like to have some of our state-side alumni present for The End. If you are interested, please call the Home Office and let Gila know. There won't be time to notify everyone through The

Trichter, so it's up to you to keep in touch.

Over the next year we would like to do stories on the school to let you know, or remind you, as the case may be, about the history and development of the school. Some of the information will come from official sources, but the real stories will come from you.

We'd like to hear from those of you who transferred from the "old" school to the "new" one. [Continued on page 5]

When did you know there would be a change? What did you have to do to get ready? Did you have to help pack or unpack?

As NHS grew in enrollment during the '70s, the campus grew as well. Those of you who were there: what went on? How did it change your schedule? Any stories you care to share?

What about the dorm closing? Who was in the last dorm group? Anyone have to finish school at one of the new expansion high schools? We'd like to create as complete a history as possible—including photos. So if you have any pictures you can share that would be wonderful. They will be returned.

So everyone, get your memory banks working and share a story with us! Don't forget the pictures.

### School closing: Translation from German newspaper

[Editor's note: Terry Jorgensen sent a newspaper article (in German) from a Nürnberg-Fürth newspaper dated November 1994, regarding the American forces leaving Fürth sometime soon. Following is the article (loosely translated), as it pertains to the school closing and land use.]

The "Magic Word" is Total Closure of the school and withdrawal of American troops in the area where the Nürnberg American High School is now located. The city and county politicians wish to use the land wisely and not lose the chance of a century. There is much discussion of how to utilize the immense area that will be vacated after the school closes.

There have been many suggestions made about land use: apartments, condos, a shopping center, parks, a child-care center, Green Belt, nature conservancy, a hospital, and other institutions. Many things have to be included in the planning: traffic congestion, access, new roads, long-range planning, and the funding. The politicians see the need for careful planning and not to hurry and run the risk of losing this fabulous chance to revitalize this large area of the city. The mayor of Fürth was surprised that the final decision to close down the area happened in such a short



# NHS Trichter



"der Nürnberger Trichter— sicher und schnell— macht er, die Köpfe hell!"

Stateside Edition

Nürnberg Alumni Association, Inc.

July, 1995

Volume VII, No. 2

## Eagles' Last Flight The End of an Era—1946 to 1995

By Gila Erving Montfort ('65)

Students and teachers alike were wearing End of an Era commemorative sweatshirts on Wednesday, May 17, 1995, for the closing ceremonies of Nürnberg American High School—49 years of education.

Activities began at 10:00 A.M. in the school lobby for guest registration, followed by a reception in the library. There were teachers, administrators, the post commander, and several German officials from local schools. NHS alumni were represented by Roger Haddad, ('62), Randy Reitler ('65), both residents of Nürnberg, and Betty Sparkman Hickson ('65) and me, both from Texas.

The formal ceremony was held in the Kalb Theater. Master of Ceremonies was Jim Mulder, NHS English teacher. Remarks by guests from the German community were made by Herr Gerd Fleischmann, Fürth schools culture superintendent; Herr Andreas Zinn, Bärenstein Middle School principal; and Frau Heike Chmiel, Bärenstein Middle School teacher. They spoke of the friendship, cooperation, and exchange of educational ideas throughout the years.

NHS officials were represented by Larry Philpot, Heidelberg district superintendent (former NHS principal and superintendent); Dr. Nancy Bresell, Würzburg district superintendent; Lynne Holland, Regensburg

Elementary School principal (former NHS deputy principal); Mike Thompson, NHS principal; and Mayme Crawford, NHS deputy principal. Other speakers were Major Lee Taylor, commander at Darby Kaserne; Kara Lagerberg, student council president; and I represented the alumni association.



JROTC Drill Team performing at the closing ceremony

Mike Thompson read several letters from former NHS principals who shared their experiences, and wished the students well as they move on to other schools, and into the world as graduating seniors. Major Taylor explained how important it has been over time for military personnel serving overseas to have their families with them, and the role the students have played in support-

ing their parents as they do their jobs.

Under the direction of Ron Judd, the Nürnberg American Middle/High School band played several numbers during the ceremonies. The award-winning Junior ROTC unit was in charge of presenting and retiring the colors. The ceremonies ended with an assembly in front of the school with a demonstration by the JROTC drill team and the final retiring of the flag. We all then adjourned to the back patio for lunch. During the afternoon there were games and activities on the football field and in the gym.



## CLOSING CEREMONY

**Archivist's Note:** This is the official program of the school closure ceremony. It gives a good idea of its formal and ceremonious nature. The program is hard to read because of the green ink and the small type. Larry and Norine Mathern, who appear on the faculty list, are quite possibly the longest serving NHS faculty members, as they came to Nürnberg in the early 70s.

Presentation of Colors *	JROTC
"German National Anthem" *	Nuernberg American Middle/High School Band directed by Mr. Ron Judd
"Star Spangled Banner" *	
Welcome	Mr. James Mulder, Master of Ceremony
Introduction of German guests	Skylar Lund, Abby Bockelmann and Kristof Robinson
Remarks by Herr Gerd Fleischmann Representing Lord Mayor of Fuerth	Culture Superintendent, Fuerth School
Remarks by Herr Andreas Zinn	Principal, Baerenstein Middle School
Remarks by Frau Heike Chmiel	Teacher, Baerenstein Middle School
Remarks and Introduction of Alumni	Ms. Kara Lagerberg, Student Council
Recognition and Introduction of former Assistant Principals	Ms. Mayme Crawford, Deputy Principal 1981-1995
Remarks by Ms. Lynne Holland Principal, Regensburg Elementary School	Deputy Principal 1979-1983
Recognition and Introduction of former Principals	Mr. Michael Thompson, Principal
Remarks by Mr. Larry Philpot District Superintendent, Heidelberg	Principal 1983-1987
Introduction of Dr. Bresell	Mr. Larry Philpot
Remarks by Dr. Nancy Bresell	District Superintendent, Wuerzburg
Musical Interlude--"Old Comrades"	Nuernberg Middle/High School Band
Remarks by Major Lee Taylor	Commander, AST Nuernberg/Fuerth
Recognition of former Teachers and Staff	Mr. Mulder
Recognition of Nuernberg American Middle/High School Support Groups	Mr. Mulder
Musical Interlude: "Stars and Stripes Forever"	Nuernberg Middle/High School Band
Remarks by Mr. Michael Thompson Principal Nuernberg Middle/High School	Principal 1992-1995
Retrieving of Colors *	JROTC
Assembling at School Flagpole	JROTC Drill Team
Final Retiring of Flag	JROTC and Band

## Faculty 1994-95

Andrews, Bruce	JROTC
Barks, Thea	Science
Brown, Orie	Registrar/Attendance
Bydlon, Frank	Mathematics
Cornell, Doris	Transportation Secretary
Crawford, Mayme	Assistant Principal
Dingmann, Joan	Business Education
Dowden, Doug	Spanish
East, Arlene	English
Fitzgerald, Junia	Administrative Secretary
Frank, Mary	Media Specialist
Geiger, Heidrum	Host Nation/German Language
Gilbertson, Jessie	Guidance Counselor
Harris, Will	Supply
Heil, Priscilla	Educational Aide
Hermann, Elaine	AVID/Home Economics
Hughes, Rosie	Educational Aide
Jones, Philip	Art
Jordan, Horace	JROTC
Judd, Ron	Music
Kaes, Norma	Physical Education
Koerner, Wolfgang	German
Lawson, Stephanie	Psychologist
Luthi, Jane	Science
Mathern, Larry	Social Studies
Mathern, Norine	Social Studies
Maynard, Pat	Special Education
McAdams, Cathy	Mathematics/6th Grade
Mulder, Jim	English
Nestaval, Sara	Social Studies
O'Donnell, Molly	English, Humanities, Drama
Parke, Georgine	Science/Math
Rattigan, J.R.	Automotive
Richardson, Bob	Science
Robinson, Danny	Mathematics
Rosenberger, Greg	Computer Science
Rosenberger, Janet	Educational Aide
Schaffer, Dolores	Reading
Schaffer, James	Tech Ed/Social Studies
Slattery, Marcella	Computer Science
Stillman, Ron	Supply
Stroud, Rose	English
Tabor, Lynn	Mathematics
Urre, Barbara	Nurse
Wiegler, Carol	Communications Impaired
Wilson, Sheryle	Special Education





# Marching Backward to 1995

The Stars and Stripes

Thursday, June 1, 1995

Pages 1-2

## End of an era in Nürnberg *Tears flow at high school's final graduation*

By **RON JENSEN**  
Nürnberg bureau

FÜRTH, Germany — Tears interrupted the last valedictory address by the last valedictorian of the last graduating class of Nürnberg High School on Tuesday night.

Dawn Henly, the top academic student of the class had to stop to battle her emotions as she delivered the speech at the Fürth Stadthalle.

"No matter where we end up in the world, we will always have . . ." she said before the tears overcame her.

After pausing briefly, she continued ". . . a little piece (of Nürnberg) to take with us.

It is not the only time she had to compose herself. And it was not unexpected. "When I was writing it, I was crying," Henly said after the ceremony. "Every time I went over it, it hit me in the heart,"

Her reward for struggling through the speech was a warm and admiring standing ovation from the 200 people in the audience and her fellow graduates.

Emotion was always just under the surface in a ceremony that marked the end of a school that graduated its first class in 1947. The Nürnberg military community is scheduled to close later this year and the school system will close with it, locking its doors after classes end this week.

"The world changes," said Maj. Lee Taylor, commander of the area support team in Nürnberg.

In his remarks to the graduates, he told them that they live in a world unimagined by that first graduating class. The advances made since then, he said, were made because people with dreams pursued them.

"Class of '95, I challenge you to dream deeply," Taylor said.

The ceremony was attended by 32 graduates. Ten others will receive Nürnberg High School diplomas despite finishing their studies in the United States or earlier at the school in Fürth.

As recently as 1991, the school graduated 165 seniors; The largest class, according to records that go back to 1964, was the 1978 class with 180 graduates.

In green robes and flat-topped caps, the graduates, each carrying a white rose, filed into the hall while video cameras rolled and flashbulbs popped.

In her salutatory address, Cristina Teodora noted that she will miss more than her friends and teachers. The teen-ager was born in South Africa and lived in Lisbon, Portugal, before coming to Germany, two years ago.

She will miss, she said, the American culture "I have come to know and love."

Teodora will return to Lisbon and study medicine.

In between tears, Henly said, "I think I speak for the whole senior class when I say that our venture into the real world is a scary one."

She and her classmates, she said, will not have a home to return to once they have left.

However, they will always have what Henly said is the wonderful experience of living and learning in Europe.

"We are a significant part of German history," she said. "We've actually seen the places we have read about in our textbooks."

Following the performance of a Mozart piano piece by graduate Vanessa Rosenberger and a poem written and read by graduate Rayford Clark, the diplomas were handed to each student by Michael Thompson, the school principal.

As each name was called by guidance counselor Jessie Gilbertson, she also read a graduation message each student had written. They thanked their parents, God, and their friends.

One thanked his father for taking away his driver's license so he would study. Another thanked a younger brother for so pestering her that she studied hard so she could get away from the house.

Some kissed their diplomas and held them aloft. Some waved to family and friends in the auditorium.

Even Charlie Eagle, the school mascot, received a diploma.

When it was finished, the Class of 1995 of Nürnberg High School tossed its caps in the air. And when the caps came down, the students had become graduates, and there will never be any more like them.

**Archivist's Note:** This is a retyped copy of the article that appeared in *The Stars and Stripes* on June 1, 1995. Do not confuse the Jensen article with the earlier article, "Eagles' Last Flight," which chronicled the official closing of the school after 49 years. See next page for a photocopy of the pages in Stars and Stripes with 2 pictures.



**Archivist's Note:** Ron Jensen article as it appeared in The Stars and Stripes. It began on page 1 and was continued on page 2. The pictures did not copy well.



Nürnberg High School valedictorian Dawn Henly cries during her speech.

S&S: Dave Casey

## End of an era in Nürnberg

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See ERA on Page 2

## ERA

From Page 1

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Nürnberg High School valedictorian Dawn Henly (left) wipes away a tear during commencement ceremonies as salutatorian Cristina Teodora looks on.

S&S: Dave Casey

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# Going out with a bang, not a whimper

## Fürth exchange plans full service until end

By RON JENSEN  
Nürnberg bureau

FÜRTH, Germany — The popular exchange near William O. Darby Casern will close for good in early August, but the manager intends to continue business as usual until then.

"We are going to maintain a full-fledged operation until the end," said Stan McGhee, main store manager.

The last day to shop will be Aug. 6, a Sunday. "Then, we're gone. We're history," he said.

The exchange is one of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's magnet stores that draw customers from a wide area, so the end of the Nürnberg military community has an impact beyond the local community.

McGhee said the store has only now begun to see a reduction in weekend traffic from outlying communities, but still receives more than 60 percent of its business from those customers.

"They're still shopping," he said.

And the store is still stocking new items, McGhee said. Tandem bicycles were recently stocked. New television sets are arriving for an upcoming sale. The only items that will be dropped are those that do not sell.

McGhee said customers can expect normal AAFES promotions and sales throughout the summer.

Closing at the same time is the commissary across the street from McGhee's store. It, too, has attracted customers from outlying communities and has been named Europe's best large commissary several times.

The commander of the area support team said last week that the community soon will begin to evaporate quickly, triggered by the end of the school year on Friday.

"A lot of the families have already shipped household goods," said Maj. Lee Taylor. Once school is out, the families will follow.

Taylor said he has about 750 soldiers right now. On Aug. 15, 500 of them are to begin duty in Bamberg, located 30 miles to the north.

Some of them already have moved their families to

### Closing the Nürnberg military community



The remaining U.S. facilities that support the Nürnberg community are on schedule to close their doors for good. The following are some of the highlights of the ongoing closure.

- Hospital closes in June
- Pinder Barracks canteen, June 23
- Library: last day to check out books June 2; closes June 30
- Car care center, July 24
- Main exchange and commissary, Aug. 6
- Burger King, Aug. 15
- Johnson fitness center, Aug. 15
- Launderette, Aug. 15
- Theater, Aug. 15
- Bowling center, Aug. 31
- Gas station, Sept. 5
- Army Community Services, Sept. 15
- Shoppette, Sept. 15
- Tax relief office, Sept. 15

S&S

Bamberg. Others will do the same once school closes.

Taylor said some waivers have been granted so families can have a home in Fürth and in Bamberg while waiting to move. Regulations do not usually allow a family to have two quarters.

"I'm trying, but it's real hard to keep the same quality of life until school is out," Taylor said. But, he added, when people find jobs and move, services are sometimes discontinued.

When September arrives, he said, there will be 13 soldiers in Nürnberg, "me and 12 NCOs."

Taylor is pleased with the momentum of the closure, so far. One sticking point, however, is a problem with hazardous wastes left behind when families leave.

Such items include paint, gasoline and anti-freeze. Signs point the way to the hazardous waste disposal site, he said, but some people ignore them.

"I talk to them and talk to them, but it still shows up



S&S: Ron Jensen

Soldiers from the 793rd MP Bn in Fürth, Germany, clear out offices on William O. Darby Casern.

(at trash bins) every time a moving van pulls away," he said.

The hospital will close for good in June, and a clinic will open in Building 21 on Darby Casern on July 5. Active duty sick call will be available. Clinic staff will make appointments for family members in the Bamberg clinic, and a bus will make two round trips each day to Bamberg.

Taylor said a Fourth of July picnic will be held on Darby Casern as a farewell function. Following an afternoon of games and food beginning at 3 p.m., fireworks will lift off from the nearby school athletic field at 10:15 p.m.