

UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL ACTIVITY, NUERNBERGFACT SHEETHISTORY

The US Army Hospital, Nuernberg was the first German Army Hospital to be built after the renouncement of the Treaty of Versailles. Construction was begun in 1934 and completed in 1937. The building was personally dedicated by Adolf Hitler. The Hospital was controlled by the German Army District Surgeon and operated by personnel of the German 17th Infantry Division Medical Detachment. During World War II, the hospital was expanded to serve 1500 patients in the Main Building and 500 more in temporary buildings. In the closing months of the War, the six story central section was bombed causing severe damage which was not completely repaired until March 1947. The Hospital came under the control of the US Army on 20 April 1945, when elements of the US Army occupied Nuernberg. On the 24th of June 1945, the 116th General Hospital set up operations in the Main Building. Since 1945, the Hospital has been occupied by various US Army Hospital units, and is today operated by the 98th General Hospital Nuernberg with a 175 bed patient capacity.

VITAL STATISTICS

a. The Nuernberg MEDDAC provides support for all 1st Armored Division, elements of the VII US Corps and the Seventh US Army Training Command encompassing an area of approximately 12,000 square miles.

b. The patient population is approximated at 73,000 (50,000 military, 21,500 family members & 1,900 others). The average daily outpatient load for the MEDDAC is 1,300 with approximately 550-600 patients being seen at the hospital. The inpatient bed utilization averages of 85% of the beds available (approx 144 daily). The hospital averages 3 babies delivered, 23 patients admitted, 10 operations performed and 10,000 laboratory procedures accomplished daily.

c. The specialties offered at the hospital can be divided into the major categories of surgical, medical and mental hygiene. In surgery the specialties are general, orthopedic, eye, ear, nose & throat, physical therapy, podiatry, speech pathology, audiology, and urology. In medicine the hospital offers internal medicine, neurology, dermatology and pediatrics. In mental hygiene the specialties include adult psychiatry, child psychiatry, social work service, inpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment, psychology, and Community Health Nursing which provide various counseling and education services.

2 February 1982

SUBJECT: United States Army Medical Activity, Nuernberg

3. ORGANIZATION:

a. The Nuernberg MEDDAC includes the US Army Hospital Nuernberg (now designated as the 98th General Hospital), 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service) , 71st Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) and 10 outlying health clinics. The 16th Medical Detachment (Crailsheim), 536th General Dispensary (Katterbach & Illesheim), 188th General Dispensary (Bamberg & Bindlach), 120th General Dispensary (Erlangen), 547th General Dispensary (Grafenwoehr & Vilseck), 731st (Amberg & Hohenfels), plus a Troop Medical Clinic in Regensburg.

b. The 87th Medical Detachment (Dental Service) is colocated in the installation with the hospital but now provides for its own command under the organization of the Nuernberg Dental Activity (DENTAC) and operates 13 Dental Clinics.

4. COMMENTS:

a. The Nuernberg Hospital is presently completing a 30 million dollar renovation project including a new 118,000 square foot addition. The addition is completed and contains new operating rooms (4), recovery room, ICU/CCU (14 beds) CMS, Emergency Room, Outpatient Department, X-ray (with remote flouroscopy, mammography, and computerized ultrasonography), Laboratory (with and ACA III, Coulter Counter S Sr, and Gemini Chemical Analyser), Orthopedic Clinic, Physical Therapy, Department of Medicine (with specialty clinics including Reprsiratory Therapy, EKG, 2 Computerized Treadmills, Echocardiology, EEG, Colonoscopy, and Rheoplethysmography), Labor (5 rooms), Delivery (3 rooms) and Newborn Nursery.

b. The MEDDAC has a very close relationship with the world famous Erlangen University Medical School for Neurosurgical Services and Erlangen Kinder Clinic for neonatal intensive care. The Nuernberg City Hospital is also used for some laboratory testing, nuclear medicine and CT scans. This relationship extends to continuing medical education with joint medical and surgical conferences each year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, and SEVENTH ARMY
APO NEW YORK 09403

PERMANENT ORDERS 27-6

27 March 1981

98th General Hospital E8 (WBKDA) (TPSN 32734) (ALO 7) APO New York 09180

Following organization/unit action directed.

Action: Unit(s) reorganized under MTOE 08303HE106 Command Control Number: E10182

Assigned to: 7th Medical Command

Mission: As stated in Section I, TOE 08303H

Effective date: 16 April 1982

Military structure strength: 221 officers, 2 warrant officers, 421 enlisted, 644 aggregate

Military authorized strength: 71 officers, 1 warrant officer, 219 enlisted, 291 aggregate

Civilian structure strength: Not applicable

Civilian authorized strength: Not applicable

Accounting classification: Not applicable

Authority: AR 220-5 and AR 310-49

Additional instructions: (a) This constitutes requisition authority. Commanders will submit requisitions for shortages immediately, because this Modification Table of Organization and Equipment may affect readiness reporting.

(b) On registration of parent organization unit identification codes and derivative unit identification codes, commands, activities, organizations, units will request a Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) in accordance with United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) Regulation 55-5. Each Army command, activity, organization, unit, or separate detachment that maintains a formal document register under the provisions of AR 710-2 and is authorized to request/requisition supplies by submitting a Department of the Army Form 2765, Department of Defense Form 1348, or their equivalents, using Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures, must request and obtain a revised "UP" series DODAAC in accordance with established procedures. On activation, inactivation, organization, reorganization, redesignation, or discontinuance, appropriate information must also be submitted in accordance with USAREUR Regulation 55-5 for necessary update of the USAREUR Activity Address File and Directory.

Format: 740

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

B. A. McLogridge

B. A. McLOGRIDGE
Major, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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HQDA (10 - DAAG-OPF; 1 - DAMO-FDA; 1 - DAMH-HSO; 1 - DASG-HCO-O)(13)

CINCUSAREUR (1 - AEAGS-MH; 2 - AEAGC-FMD; 1 - AEAGC-O-CO; 2 - AEAGD-RM-OA; 1 - AEAGD-SM-M; 15 - AEAGF-ADE; 2 - AEAGF-AMS; 1 - AEACH-PA)(25)

Cdr, 4th Trans Bde (AEUTR-JIMA-TA)(1)

Cdr, 200th MMC (2 - AEAGD-MMC-AR; 6 - AEAGD-MMC-AA-E; 1 - AEAGD-MMC-MA)(9)

Cdr, 1st PERSCOM (2 - AEUPE-AMD-AC; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-ALC; 1 - AEUPE-CS-RM; 1 - AEUPE-DPD-P;

2 - AEUPE-DPD-PM; 1 - AEUPE-DPD-SID; 1 - AEUPE-EPMD-R; 1 - AEUPE-OMP;

1 - AEUPE-OPMD-OD; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PO; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PS; 1 - AEUPE-PSSD-SID;

2 - AEUPE-X)(16)

Cdr, USAFACEUR (AEUTCF-U), APO 09102(1)

Cdr, USACEGE (AERCE-M), APO 09166(2)

Cdr, USAPPCE, APO 09090(1)

Cdr, 21st Repl Bn, APO 09757(1)

Cdr, USMCA, Giessen (AETVC-GSN-DEH-EI), APO 09169(1)

Cdr, 7th MEDCOM (AEMRM-MP)(10)

Cdr, 98th GH, APO 09180(10)

Inquiries concerning these orders will be directed to HQ USAREUR/7A, HDG MIL (2121-)8348.

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

TDR (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)

1. <i>Cdr LARMC</i>	Initials	Date
2.	<i>AW</i>	
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Notes and Return
Approval	For Clearance	For Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

This is an order on the 98th which is moving to Tullerberg NL 30 June 81

and SEVENTH ARMY

27 March 1981

APC New York 09180

and Control Number: E10182

Officers, 421 enlisted, 644 aggregate
NCOs, 219 enlisted, 291 aggregate

Activation authority. Commanders will ensure this Modification Table of Organization is maintained. Units will request a modification, codes and derivative unit (AC) in accordance with United States Department of Defense, activity, organization, unit, and their equivalents, using Military Department register under the provisions of 38 CFR 1.101 by submitting a Department of Defense request and obtain a revised "W" procedures. On activation, inactivation, discontinuance, appropriate information Regulation 55-5 for necessary update of

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposes, clearances, and similar actions

TO: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) _____ Room No.—Bldg. _____
Phone No. _____

11-386
U.S. G.P.O. 1977-241-530/3091

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.208

F. A. Logrippo
LOGRIPP
MGC

at Adjutant General
- DASG-HCO-O(13)
GC-O-CO; 2 - AEAGD-RM-OA; 1 - AEAGD-SM-H;

- Cdr, 200th MMC (2 - AEUPE-AMD-AU; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-SID; 1 - AEUPE-OPMD-OD; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PO; 1 - AEUPE-X)(16)
- Cdr, 1st PERSCOM (2 - AEUPE-AMD-AU; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-SID; 1 - AEUPE-OPMD-OD; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PO; 1 - AEUPE-X)(16)
- Cdr, USAFACMIR (AEUTCF-U), APO 09102(1)
- Cdr, USACEGE (AERCE-M), APO 09166(2)
- Cdr, USAPFCE, APO 09090(1)
- Cdr, 21st Repl Bn, APO 09757(1)
- Cdr, USMCA, Giesean (AETVC-GSN-DEH-EI), APO 09169(1)
- Cdr, 7th MEDCOM (AEMRM-MP)(10)
- Cdr, 98th GH, APO 09180(10)

- 8; 1 - AEAGD-MMC-MA)(9)
- AD-ALC; 1 - AEUPE-CS-RM; 1 - AEUPE-DPD-F; 1 - AEUPE-EPMD-R; 1 - AEUPE-OMP; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PS; 1 - AEUPE-PSSD-SID;

Inquiries concerning these orders will be directed to HQ USAFEUR/7A, HDG M11 (2121-8348).

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, and SEVENTH ARMY
APO NEW YORK 09403

PERMANENT ORDERS 85-2

20 October 1981

98th General Hospital E8 (WBKDA) (TPSN 32734) (ALO 7) APO New York 09180

Following organization/unit action directed.

Action: Unit(s) reorganized under MTOE 08303HE106 Command Control Number: E10282

Assigned to: 7th Medical Command

Mission: As stated in Section I, TOE 08303H

Effective date: 16 July 1982

Military structure strength: 226 officers, 2 warrant officers, 460 enlisted, 688 aggregate

Military authorized strength: 71 officers, 1 warrant officer, 219 enlisted, 291 aggregate

Civilian structure strength: Not applicable

Civilian authorized strength: Not applicable

Accounting classification: Not applicable

Authority: AR 220-5 and AR 310-49

Additional instructions: (a) This constitutes requisition authority. Commanders will submit requisitions for shortages immediately, because this Modification Table of Organization and Equipment may affect readiness reporting.

(b) On registration of parent organization unit identification codes and derivative unit identification codes, commands, activities, organizations, units will request a Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) in accordance with United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) Regulation 55-5. Each Army command, activity, organization, unit, or separate detachment that maintains a formal document register under the provisions of AR 710-2 and is authorized to request/requisition supplies by submitting a Department of the Army Form 2765, Department of Defense Form 1348, or their equivalents, using Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures, must request and obtain a revised "W" series DODAAC in accordance with established procedures. On activation, inactivation, organization, reorganization, redesignation, or discontinuance, appropriate information must also be submitted in accordance with USAREUR Regulation 55-5 for necessary update of the USAREUR Activity Address File and Directory.

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FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

DISTRIBUTION:
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B. A. Malogrijs
B. A. MALOGRIS
Major, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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15 - AEAGF-ADE; 2 - AEAGF-AMS; 1 - AEACH-PA)(25)
Cdr, 4th TRANSCOM (AEUTR-JTMA-TA)(1)
Cdr, 200th MMC (TA) (2 - AEAGD-MMC-AR; 6 - AEAGD-MMC-AA-E; 1 - AEAGD-MMC-MA)(9)
Cdr, 1st PERSCOM (2 - AEUPE-AMD-AC; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-ALC; 1 - AEUPE-CS-RM; 1 - AEUPE-DPD-P;
2 - AEUPE-DPD-PM; 1 - AEUPE-DPD-SID; 1 - AEUPE-EPMD-R; 1 - ARNPR-OMP;
1 - AEUPE-OPMD-OD; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PO; 1 - AEUPE-PGE-PS; 1 - AEUPE-PSSD-SID;
2 - AEUPE-X)(16)
Cdr, USAFACEUR (AEUTCF-U), APO 09102(1)
Cdr, USACEGE (AERCE-M), APO 09166(2)
Cdr, USAPPCE, APO 09090(1)
Cdr, 21st Repl Bn, APO 09757(1)
Cdr, USMCA, Giessen (AETVC-GSN-DEH-EI), APO 09169(1)
Cdr, 7th MEDCOM (AEMRM-MP)(10)
98th GH, APO 09180(10)

Inquiries concerning these orders will be directed to HQ USAREUR/7A, HDG M11 (2121-)8348.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE and CENTRAL ARMY
APO NEW YORK 09403

*Co
An*

ARAGF-ADE

3 January 1983

SUBJECT: Approved Change to MTOE 08303HE106

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Inclosure 1 is Change Number 1 to MTOE 08303HE106, Command Control Number E10282, 20 October 1981, applicable to the following unit:

Unit Designation

UIC

98th GH

WBKDAA

2. This letter constitutes authority for the implementation of the change or changes indicated in the inclosure. These changes have been applied to the TAADS data base. Prior coordination is not always possible and errors, or suspected errors, should be reported immediately. All other required/recommended changes should be submitted in accordance with current regulations.

3. The effective date (EDATE), as shown on the inclosure, applies only to this change, and is not to be confused as a change in EDATE for the base MTOE/TDA. This change does not constitute any change in the total strength, required or authorized, reflected in Section II, Personnel Allowances, of this MTOE/TDA. The addition or deletion, or both, of a line or LIN is identified. A double entry is shown for a line or LIN that has been changed. The first entry reflects the line or LIN before the change and the second entry reflects the application of the change.

4. Inclosure 1 will be filed with the base MTOE/TDA for reference.

5. As a result of equipment and manpower changes, units will review and update publications accounts in order to receive publications required to sustain day-to-day operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

B. A. Malogridis
B. A. MALOGRIDIS
 LTC, AGC
 Assistant Adjutant General

1 Incl
 as

Telephone: HDG M11 (2121-)8348

DISTRIBUTION: Special

HQDA (7 - DAAG-OFA-D; 1 - DALO-PLR; 1 - DAPE-HRE; 1 - DAPE-PBA)(10)

Cdr, TRADOC (ATCD-O), FT Monroe, VA 23651(6)

CINCUSAREUR (2 - AEAGC-FMD; 1 - AEAGC-O-CO; 2 - AEAGD-RM-OA; 1 - AEAGD-SN-M; 15 - ARAGF-ADE; 2 - ARAGF-AMS; 1 - AEAGM-P; 1 - AEACH-PA; 1 - AEAMD-RM-MP)(26)

Cdr, 200th MMC (TA) (2 - AEAGD-MMC-AR-M; 6 - AEAGD-MMC-AA-E; 1 - AEAGD-MMC-MA)(9)

Cdr, 1st PERSCOM (1 - AEUPE-AMD-AG; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-ACP; 1 - AEUPE-AMD-ALC; 1 - AEUPE-CS-RM; 2 - AEUPE-DPD-PH; 2 - AEUPE-EFMD-R; 1 - AEUPE-OMP; 1 - AEUPE-PSSD-SID)(9)

Cdr, USAFACEUR (AEUTCF-U), APO 09102(1)

Cdr, USACRGE (ARCR-M), APO 09166(2)

Cdr, USMCA, Giessen (AEVVC-SSN-DEH-EI), APO 09169(1)

Cdr, 7th MEDCOM (ARMCO-MP)(10)

Cdr, 98th GH, APO 09180(10)

HQ AE FL A 418, 1 Feb 78

103-05

SUNDAY

A Stars and Stripes magazine

May 25, 1997



The U.S. military left the Nürnberg area more than a year ago. Above, a crew demolishes the Kalb Community Club. At left, just pieces of the old Community Theater remain today on W.O. Darby Casern in Fürth.

S&S Ron Jensen

Gone — but not forgotten

*Nürnberg pullout
still an emotional
issue a year later*

By **RON JENSEN**
Staff writer

FURTH, Germany — The community club, gas station and movie theater have been bulldozed, along with the shoppette.

The school is dark behind a weed-strewn lawn.

Overpriced merchandise is being sold outside the exchange building, where a German flea market has invaded the empty exchange's unused

parking lot.

Much of the playground equipment put in place at the housing area three years ago has been hauled away.

Jose Rodriguez doesn't like to drive

Continued on Page 4



The old post exchange in Fürth, Germany, is empty, but the parking lot around it buzzes with commercial activity with a German flea market.

Gone — but not forgotten

Continued from Page 1

past of the WWII. Darby Casem in Fürth, the center of the now defunct Nürnberg military community which he was apart of for nearly 10 years.

"It's very sad," he said.

More than a year ago, what was once one of the Army's largest overseas military communities went dark. Emotions still easily surface when former residents are asked to talk about it.

The Nürnberg military community had a population of more than 35,000 as recently as 1990, when it included American bases in nearby Erlangen and Herzogenaurach, plus Merrell Barracks in Nürnberg, from where the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment patrolled the border between East and West.

But the Cold War ended. The U.S. military overseas was cut. And Nürnberg, an American military community that began before the dust of World War II had settled, was a victim.

Facilities began to close, including the base in Herzogenaurach and the one in Erlangen. In April 1994, the hospital went away.

The ultimate closure announcement came in October 1994. The community had barely a year to live.

The American military presence in Nürnberg was an ultimate defeat for Nazi Germany. It was in this ancient city that Adolf Hitler had held his massive party rallies, addressing literally millions with his fiery rhetoric that Germany would once again be great.

It was the Nürnberg laws, as they were called, that in 1935 justified the anti-Semitism of the regime.

So when bombs fell on it in the last months of the war, reducing a once-beautiful city to piles of rubble, it symbolized the crumbling, too, of the Third Reich.

The Allies chose Nürnberg as a site for the war

crimes trials that sent several Nazi leaders to the gallows.

But the city rebuilt and the Americans stayed. The Iron Curtain's proximity made the military community a valuable asset.

When the world changed and the military draw-down began, residents in the community still didn't see it coming. No, they said, they will never close Nürnberg.

But they did. And people who lived and worked in the community are still pretty unhappy about it.

Don Norris, 56, who was in the community as soldier and civilian for nearly 25 years and still lives there, said: "This was a part of my life. I can honestly say, even as a grown man, I can feel tears coming to

my eyes when I see the demolition of these facilities that were part of the American community here."

When the base did close, Norris decided to take part. He became the last customer or client served by as many facilities and offices as possible.

He was the last person to register his car at Darby and the last one to have his car inspected. He was the last customer at the post office and the last customer at the bank.

He was the last to use the exchange, the commissary, the shoppette and the gas station. He was the last customer at the Burger King and the last one to pur-

S&S photos by
by Ron Jensen



Don Norris spent many years working at the American military hospital in Nürnberg. The hospital opened in 1937, an effort of the Third Reich. The building is now empty.

chase tickets at the base movie theater. And that's just a partial list.

"I made sure I knew when they were closing," he said. "I would stand and wait until I was the last one. That was my way of turning the lights off in Nürnberg."

Such feelings engendered a combative response to the closure announcement. While other communities that felt the drawdown ax went quietly, Nürnberg residents, many of them longtime community members like Norris, tried to hold back the inevitable.

"We wrote so many letters up to Washington they had them coming out of their ears," Rodriguez, who now works at Katterbach, 20 miles away, said with a laugh. He led a letter-writing campaign, arguing that the community was too important, had received too many tax dollars in improvements, to be given away.

"We wrote everybody," said Menjoyce Zeitler, a longtime teacher in Nürnberg, now teaching in Bamberg, Germany, and a member of the letter-writing campaign.

The letters reached members of Congress, major media outlets and even the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen. John Shalikshvili, a former commander in Nürnberg.

The letter writers had personal reasons for wanting to save the community. After all, they didn't want to lose their jobs or uproot their lives.

But the letters stressed the money that had been spent in recent years to improve the community. The hospital had seen millions of dollars in improvements. A school was built on Montieih Barracks at a cost of \$12 million. It was used for three years before closing.

The community had seen significant improvements over the years. When it closed, it was widely considered to have the best exchange and the best commissary in Europe.

Zeitler remembered the old days, when the facilities were too small to handle the

customer load. One day, while everyone wanted in long lines at the bank, a pregnant woman passed out.

"It took a long time before anyone got out of line to help her," Zeitler recalled. "We were afraid to lose our place in line."

Those days gave way to glory days, when embassy personnel from Vienna drove all the way to Fürth to shop.

"It was unbelievable that such a community could close," Zeitler said. "I thought, 'Why would they put that much money in a community and close it down?'"

Rodriguez and others have not failed to notice that the massive building project going on now in Würzburg will result in facilities that will resemble what the Army abandoned in Nürnberg.

"There they are, spending more taxpayers' money," Rodriguez said, his feelings dampened barely at all by time.

Norris, who still lives in Nürnberg and commutes to a job at the U.S. Army Hospital in Würzburg, said, "I think there were people who were amazed it was closing, could not understand the reason for it."

Like all military communities, W.O. Darby Casern was ringed by businesses that catered to the Americans. Many of them have closed, but some have stayed, mostly out of stubbornness or loyalty.

Ursula Jastrow's reason is the latter. She lost 99 percent of her insurance business when the Americans moved. But she's still open for business and still has English-language signs in her small office.

She once had nearly 6,000 customers. Some of the ones who moved to other communities have retained their policies with her, showing loyalty goes both ways, but that's fewer than 100.

"I'm working here for pocket money now," she said. "But I don't want to give it up."

The good moments are when those customers call



or she calls them.

"Sometimes my phone bill doesn't look so good," she said.

The relationship with her customers, she said, was like that of a family. And she helped with more than just insurance — finding an apartment, finding a baby sitter — because she liked the Americans who worked just across the street.

When she made a trip to America to visit friends, the customs agent at the airport in Texas was a former customer.

Some signs of life still stir around the old community. On Johnson Barracks, just down the road a mile or so from Darby, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office is still in business, along with a circulation office for this newspaper.

And a couple of offices remain open on Darby, mostly manned by German employees. The Federal Services International Corp. maintains the soaring microwave tower that remains part of the military's

Continued on Page 6



A metal skeleton surrounds much of the old Kalb housing area in Fürth. The former American housing area is being renovated and sold or leased by the city of Fürth.



The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment once patrolled the Iron Curtain from its headquarters at Merrell Barracks in Nürnberg. It was closed as the Nürnberg military community pulled out.

Continued on Page 6



Ursula Jastrow speaks to one of her few remaining American customers on the phone at her office in Fürth. She lost most of her customers when the American military pulled out.

Gone — but not forgotten

Continued from Page 5

communications system.

"We go to Katterbach to get our mail," Joe Muir, one of the eight civilian workers said, referring to the closest American base with facilities.

Outside their windowless workroom, Staff Sgt. Stephen Drake was in a vain search for a U.S. mailbox or an ATM bank machine.

Much had changed at Darby, he confessed, since he left in 1994. Now stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, he is deployed to Bosnia, but was in Fürth with his wife on emergency leave.

"It's shocking," he said of the ghost town atmosphere. "We don't understand the logic — that money being spent."

Not everyone wears a long face because the community exists no more. Wilhelm Wenning, the mayor of Fürth, has grand plans that will benefit his city.

The city, in a partnership with banks, has invested 200 million marks, about \$125 million, in the area. It will reap new housing, new schools, more businesses and about 5,000 additional residents taxpaying, local economy-shopping residents.

The old housing area is being renovated into 1,234 apartments, half of which are for sale for between 2,250 and 2,600 marks per square meter. That's about \$1,300 to \$1,500.

Other housing in Fürth can cost from 33 to 100 percent more, the mayor said.

"We have many people coming to us because the price is very small," he said. Half of the available apartments have already been sold.

The other apartments will be leased or placed in a government program for low income families.

The old high school will house a middle school and vocational school. A market is planned for the now-bare corner where the gas station and theater once stood. Two breweries have agreed to build on Johnson Barracks, which is held by the federal government.

The exchange, also still in the hands of the federal government, is being considered as a shopping mall, of sorts, that will contain small shops and a cinema.

The ~~exchange~~ ~~exchange~~, also in federal government control, has been a problem. Downtown merchants have been able to block the building from becoming a haven for small retailers that would compete with them.

Darby ~~Casern~~ is a problem, too, because it has historical protection and cannot be severely renovated. That has kept some people away.

In Nürnberg, the old hospital sits empty. The city had recently opened a new one, so had no need for the building that opened as a hospital in 1937 with Adolf Hitler on hand.

And the old Bavarian-American Hotel, also built by the Third Reich in the center of Nürnberg to house dignitaries during party rallies, is being transformed into housing for university students.

Wenning, a Fürth native, said local citizens never thought the Americans would leave, even as the drawdown claimed one community after another.

"We were really very surprised," said Wenning, who was elected after the community closed.

But the drawdown opened up some real estate that had been off-limits to city planners. Wenning said he finally traveled on streets he had never been on in 40 years.

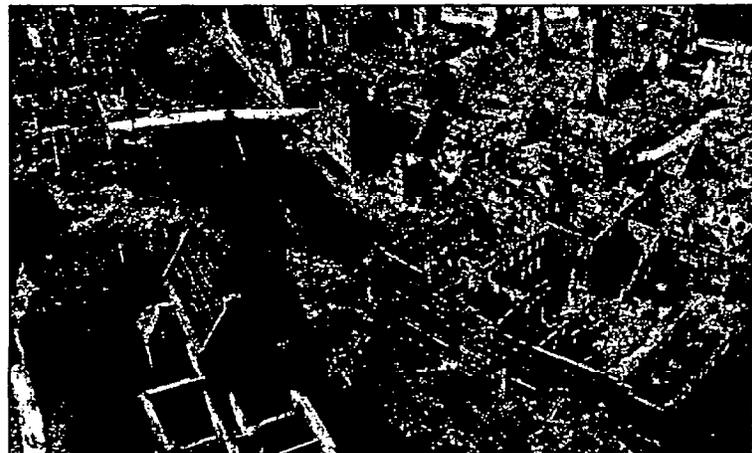
The daily contact with Americans was important to Fürth residents, but so is the new construction and additional housing that has followed the U.S. military.

So there is life, in the old American military community in and around Nürnberg. But little of it is American.

That way of life exists now in memories. "There was something about Nürnberg," said



The American military presence in Nürnberg began before the dust settled from World War II. Above, U.S. soldiers move into the area before the end of the war. At left, the Congress Hall, planned by the Nazis, was being used in 1946 as the 53rd Quartermaster Depot. Below, little remains of the city after Allied bombing raids.



Zeitler, struggling to define what that "something" was. "There was a camaraderie among teachers and other groups of people. That's where the fight came from. "There was something magical about Nürnberg." "I've seen it grow and change and everything hap-

pen to it," Norris said. "And finally I've seen it succumb to history."

Rodriguez said, "Every day that I go by, I remember the club being there. The gas station being there. The theater."