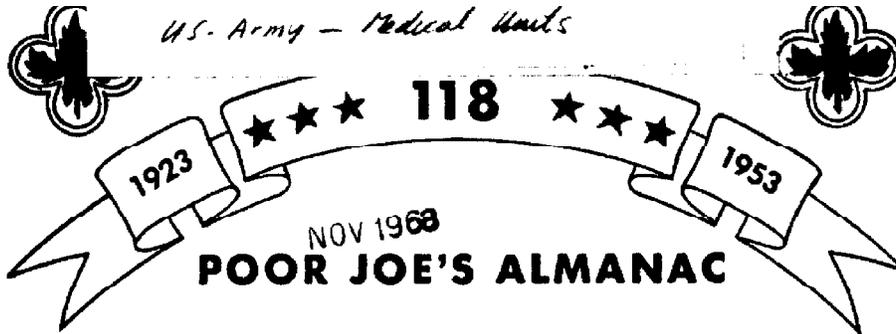


U.S. Army - Medical Units



NOV 1968

POOR JOE'S ALMANAC

— A Guide —



AR

HEADQUARTERS 118TH MEDICAL BATTALION
APO 112

US ARMY

To — a new member of "The Team."

If the US Navy's Rhine River Patrol has no objections, I'd like to welcome you aboard. It's good to have you with us!

You've now been assigned to a unit which is an integral part of both the medical service and the infantry. To understand why you're here, what your job will be, how you'll do it and so forth, it's important to know the story behind the 118th Medical Battalion. That's why we have put out this guide booklet.

In it, you'll read about the unit's history, the job to be done by us — you and me, where you'll be doing this job, how and where you'll be spending your off-duty time, some tips and warnings and hints on how to spend the next year or so in the land of the Sauerkraut and the Bratwurst.

Well, I've talked too much already. Again, let me express a personal welcome and good wishes to you on the start of your tour of duty with what I consider to be a hell of a good outfit.



PETER S. SCOLES
Maj. MC
Commanding

WHY YOU'RE HERE

You've been sent here to Europe, not as a member of an occupying Army, but as a member of a de-
fensive Army. You're here to render medical aid to those units who will have to defend the West against any possible Communist aggressive action. You may question your worth here, 3,000 miles from home, but remember that it is here in Europe that the United States will be defended against invasion, and not on the banks of the Hudson, the Mississippi or the Colorado.

WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING

Training, training, training. That sums it up for all practical purposes. You'll be going to classes on anatomy and first aid, to the field on field exercises and practice "alerts," and on top of this, you'll be doing the usual run of PT, from push-ups to chin-ups by way of the 300 meter dash.

Your off-duty time? Well, it's yours, subject, of course, to such regulations as cover leaves, three-day passes and regular passes. Within 30 days of your arrival, you'll be allowed to wear civvies, an unheard-of privilege in the European Command since it was first established in 1945. * We urge you to take advantage of your location. Paris, Amsterdam, Rome and London are within a day's travel time from here. You will be allowed credit of two and a half days per month for the duration of your tour, and be reimbursed for their expense at the rate of \$1.10 @. In other words, Uncle Sam is paying you to "get out of town."

WHEN YOU'LL DO WHAT

Training will go on all year. In the winter months, you'll work on small unit tactics and the individual fundamentals of the medical service. As the year progresses, you'll be working up the ladder until September, when you'll be ready to partake in a USAREUR-wide maneuver.

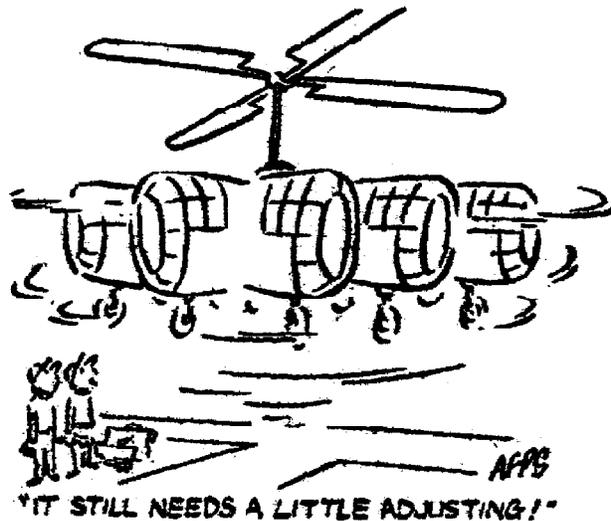
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WHERE YOU'LL BE SOLDIERING

The 118th is stationed seven miles from downtown Munich, which, in turn, is 24 miles from the foot of the reknowned Alps. Munich has a population of some 825,000 persons. It's the capital of Bavaria, and has a world reputation as the center of art, culture, and, we should add with a leer, 18% beer. During the war, it was subjected to 86 air raids which almost levelled the city, destroying 90,600 buildings, killing 6,300 citizens, wounding 12,000 and driving 40,000 out of town. It has a history all its own. In more recent times, it saw the rise of Adolf Hitler at the Burgerbräu beer-hall (now, ironically, a Special Services Club), the fateful 1938 meeting between the dictator, the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, the French Foreign Minister Eduard Daladier and Mussolini's son-in-law Count Ciano. Here is where, as historians now put it, World War II began. The remaining ruins here in town testify to the fact that it ended here too. For more details on Munich, we urge you to get BAEDEKER'S MUNICH, yours for 85 ¢ at any Stars & Stripes news stand.



When not in garrison, you'll be moving out. Get used to moving, you'll be doing a lot of it. Most of it will be done in the direction of Hohenfels, a scenic spot near Nürnberg about the size of Grand Canyon. It's as pretty as Tobacco Road, as lively as Death Valley and as cold as a witch's ... !



YOUR PLACE IN THE EUROPEAN ARMY

4 One of the scenes in basic that always amused us was that of the T&E man explaining to us recruits the Army's Chain of Command. Obviously, we laughed too soon, as the following will show...

You're a member of the 118th which is a part of the 43d Infantry Division, presently commanded by Maj Gen Charles K Gailey. Both the 43d and the 28th Inf Div, stationed in the Stuttgart area, make up the principal units of VII Corps. Corps, commanded by Maj Gen "Jumping Jim" Gavin, is one of two such outfits in the Command. The other is V Corps, run by Maj Gen Ira P Swift, which controls the activities of the 2d Arm Div, the 1st and the 4th Infantry Divisions. Still with us ? Okay - to go on:

VII and V Corps are run by Seventh Army, commanded by the hero of Bastogne, Lt Gen Anthony McAuliffe. Army is responsible to USAREUR - United States Army Europe or jes' plain "Heidelberg." The VIP there is Gen William Hoge who submits his morning report to another VIP named Gruenther at SHAPE.

Etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., and so forth.

THE HISTORY OF THE 118TH

We are not an old unit, and compared to other 43d outfits like the 172d Inf Regt, we're Johnny-Come-Latelys. Nevertheless, in our short life, we can boast of having been baptized in blood during two great world wars: 1917-18 and 1941-45.

The 118th - it wasn't known by that number in those days - actually fought as a unit before it was even organized! Back in 1918, the 101st Sanitation Train of the Connecticut Nat'l Guard, entered France with the 26th Inf Div. Due to its splendid showing during that bloody campaign, the Battalion Standard is now entitled the World War I Victory Streamer with inscriptions for Champagne-Marne, St Mihiel, Meuse, Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Ile de France and Lorraine.

Actual organization began in November of 1922 of scattered New England ambulance and hospital units; they came from Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut. From December 5th next year (now regarded as THE organization date) until the Spring of 1926, the 118th Medical Regiment came into being at New Haven, Connecticut.

According to unit records and 43d Division directives at the time, our original mission was to provide medical support to the Guard's components in the Division during their training periods. The man on whose shoulders this tremendous task of organization fell was Colonel Charles W. Comfort (retired), who had made quite a favorable name for himself in Washington as Surgeon General for the State of Connecticut. The colonel, the last we heard, is still living and resides in New Haven.

Inducted for the first time in its short life into federal service, the 118th entrained in March of 1941 for training at Camp Blanding, Florida. In America, it was still "peace," although war was raging both in Europe and in Asia. Thoughts of death were as remote to the medics as they were to the

sailors stationed at the little-known naval base of Pearl Harbor. While at Blanding, the 118th was notified by the Nat'l Guard Bureau in Washington to the effect that hencewith, it would be called the "118th Medical Battalion." As such, it maneuvered that autumn at Ft Bragg, North Carolina.

Tempers were frayed stateside until the 118th received orders to embark for the Pacific from Ft. Ord POE on October 30, 1942. The unit arrived at a New Zealand staging area several weeks afterwards; not much later, it was dispatched to render medical aid to a beleaguered 172d Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal. When the 172d finally managed to push ahead, the standard of the 118th was right behind the Blue Shielders and stayed behind until the island was completely "mopped up and dried."

Wherever the 43d fought & bled, the 118th was there to stop the bleeding and sustain the wounded until they could be fully evacuated. The annals of our history aren't great, but as long as those who fought then are living, so will the acts of individual heroism that won for us the coveted Unit Citation at places like Buna, Rendova Beach and Luzon.

Shortly after VJ Day in '45 the 118th closed up the awesome gaps in its ranks & boarded the transports that would take it back to Hartford, Connecticut - and - "home."

As the Cold War set in and as diplomatic tempers began to boil, the peacetime Guard trained & so did the 118th. At the outbreak of the Korean war; the 43d was federalized once more and sent to Camp Pickett, Va., for intensive training at that post, at AP Hill Military reservation and in a maneuver called EXERCISE SOUTHERN PINE. Ordered overseas to Europe, the 43d was firmly established in Germany by winter of 1951. Since that time, the 118th has carried out its obligations as a small, yet very important part of the NATO forces whose job it is now to repel an invasion from the East - should it ever come...

WHEELS, LITTLE & BIG; MOSTLY BIG

Once established on these premises, you'll get to know the officers one by one. Given time, you may even get to like them, heaven forbid!

At any rate, here are the people you shouldn't ask to join you for a quick Löwenbräu in back of the Battalion motor park:

Major Peter S. Scales.....COMMANDING OFFICER
Captain Harry B. Johnson.....EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Captain Albert E. Parker.....ADJUTANT and S-2
Captain Floyd S. Chadwick, Jr.....S-3
Captain Austin W. Miller.....S-4

The rest, all of 'em as fair a bunch as you'd ever hope to meet in the Army, are too numerous to mention here, and besides, they prefer Spatenbräu.

"DEAR JOHN" AND OTHER LETTERS...

Mail Call is conducted once a day, except for Sunday. Each company has its own appointed mail-clerk who'll just do about everything for you but lick stamps. It's hard to miss him - he's the one guy in your outfit who's always complaining out loud, whose feet hurt constantly, whose nose runs perpetually, and whose back is inevitably hunched

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Have him explain in detail to you the procedure involved before a box can be shipped home. Here's a tip: you may send to the States, customs free, as many items as you wish as long as their combined value, in one package, does not exceed 50 dollars. For items destined for your own personal use, the limitation is \$250 per box value.

Your mailing address for US-bound mail is:

PVT. HERKIMER P. SNODGRASS, JR., US 52458219
CLR. CO., 118TH MEDICAL BATTALION
43D INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 112, c/o POSTMASTER, NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

AND HERE IN GERMANY...

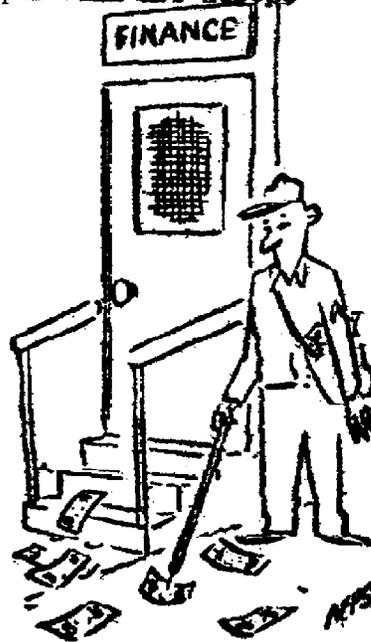
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...there are two existing currencies used. One is the Deutsche Mark, worth about 25 American cents, used by the civilian population and by you when shopping on the "German Economy." The other is the Military Payment Certificate, or "Scrip." Stuff may look like toy money to you, but don't spend it as such. A scrip buck is worth just that - one pretty, Ft. Knox-backed cents or a dollar.

Since most of your business here will be conducted in US-controlled shops (viz., PX, snack-bars, etc.) you will need more Scrip than Marks. The DM is not honored by the European Exchange System which runs most of these enterprises, and likewise, the German shopkeeper will not accept the "play Gelt."

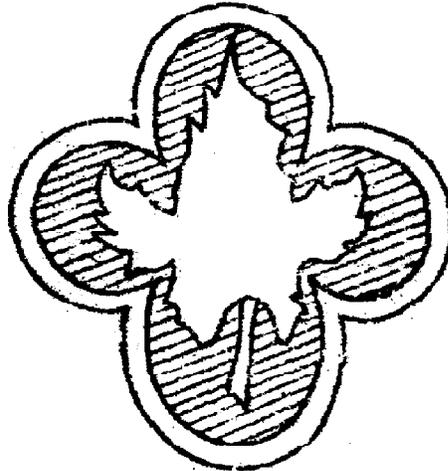
Occasionally, a shady character may want it, but do not offer it to him. Not only is it against the law, but 2 will get you 1 that the CND is watching you at "work." What's left of the Black Market isn't worth bothering with - besides, the risk of getting caught isn't worth it.

How d'you get the DM? On payday from your finance officer is one way, from American Express is the other. AM-EX has four offices in town and they're all open M-F 0900-1700; on Saturday from 0900-1300.



YOUR SHOULDER PATCH

The 43d Div patch is a black grapeleaf imposed on a red quatrefoil background. The grapeleaf represents the four states whose National Guard men in 1925 made up the Division: Maine, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island. (The Maine Regiment became a separate RCT when the Division was reorganized in 1946). The four sections of the red field stand for nothing in particular. By the way, we suppose you'd be curious about the Grapeleaf part; we were, if only for the reason that it's the most curious looking grapeleaf we have ever seen. On a furlough of late, we happened to meet a winemaker down at Bad Hönningen on the Rhine. After showing him our grapeleaf, we asked this expert what he thought about the thing. He muttered something that sounded like "Gott mit Uns!" looked sadly at us and



decided to get quietly, but politely tanked up.

Story is that Leif Ericson, who beat Columbus to the Land of the Big PX by a few years, was so impressed by the abundance of wild grapes in the part of the country we now call New England that, without even consulting Chief Running Nose, he named it "Vinland." This still doesn't explain to us why the grapeleaf looks like it does and why Finland was so named. Probably because of an abundance of Finns.

THE BATTALION CREST

The distinctive insignia of the 118th is based primarily on the white or silver shield, embossed by an ongrailed maroon cross. This symbolizes the medical or non-combatant aspects of our organization. The green Fleur-de-Lis, traditional flower of the Bourbons, stands for the participation of our forerunners in France during WW I. The green prickly bear cactus represents service on the Mexican Border during the early part of the Century.

THE BATTALION MOTTO

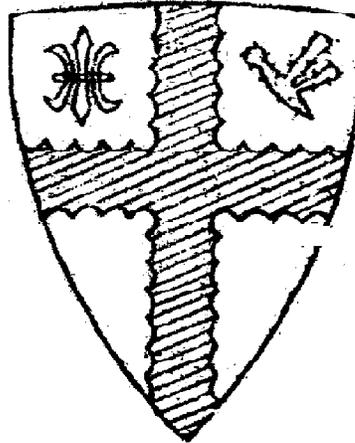
Meek little men
that we're supposed
to be, we were not
able to make our bat-
tle cry: "Follow Us!"
No one follows the
medics. They follow
the infantry...

As we understand
it, some way back in
organizational times
was asked to donate
an idea to the already
vast collection
that would inevitably
bring forth the motto.

He looked sadly at his hypodermic and sniffed: "How's about 'LOCK, LOAD, AND...', pressing the plunger down hard, 'FIRE!'"

As it stands today, it's based on an old Roman saying, "Qui Victores Sustain Victoriam Participant," which means, "He who supports the victors shares the victory."

Unofficially, the Chaplain likes this one better: "Live so that when you die, even the undertaker will miss you!"



11) A WORD OR TWO FROM THE "HOLY JOE"

"My primary purpose for being in the Army is to help each soldier in building and maintaining a happy, spiritual life. Therefore, I shall be all too happy to assist you in time of need of counsel.

"I would like to encourage all of you to come to my office so that we might become personally acquainted.

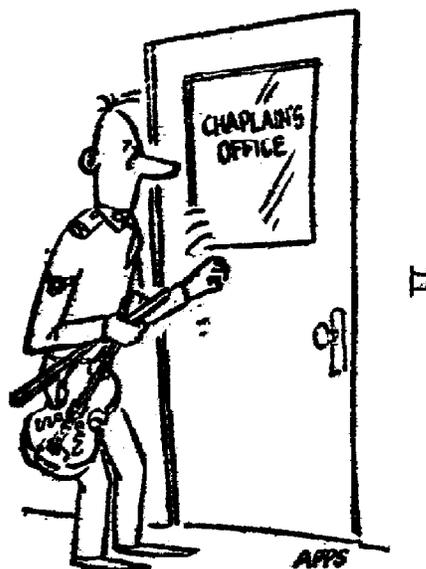
"My position here in the 118th is that of the Protestant Chaplain. This does not mean, though, that my door will be shut to men of other faiths. On the contrary, I would be delighted to talk to you. On the other hand, if you have any reservations regarding this invitation, then let me point out that there are Chaplains of all major faiths readily available to you in this area.

"For instance, there is Chaplain Thaddous F Malanowski for you Catholic fellows. His phone is Munich Military 8419. Over at McGraw Kaserne, Chaplain George Vida stands ready to serve the Jewish personnel of the Battalion.

His phone number is MM 8629. And lastly, I'm always around and about. My office is room 149 and my home is here on the kaserne. If you can't find me here, call me at CIVIL 69-30257. I'm on "duty" twenty-four hours, seven days a week.

"The name, again, is Green,

Marvin R Green
Chaplain MARVIN R. GREEN"



The MOVIE HOUSE near the club is third on the US AREUR distribution circuit. Its fares change daily except for two-day stands on Tues-Wedn and Fri&Sun. Two performances a night: 1830 and 2030; Saturday, Sunday and holiday matinees at 1400. Cost ? 25¢ MPC

The SNACK BAR, sometimes known by other names not so favorable, is located in the movie house; it boasts of the longest line in the kaserne, a fresh fruit stand as well as a S&S news counter. It's open weekdays from 1700-2300, Saturdays 1300-2300, and Sundays from 0900 to 2300.

The PX, located behind the service club, services all your needs from chewing tobacco to Gro-Pap dog food. It's open weekdays 1700-2100 and 1200

to 1700 Sat & Sun. Closed

Mondays. The

same holds

true for the

MAIN PX where

you can

just about

get every-

thing you do

NOT need. It

is located

on Prinzre-

gentenstrasse,

near the

HAUS - DER

KUNST offi-

cers' Club.



*

The LIBRARY, staffed by some of the nicest gals we've met on the kaserne, (there being so few of them around), is definitely your best bet on those rainy nights when movies aren't better than ever. Opens at 1200, closes at 2130 (weekdays); 1000-2130 on week-ends and holidays. During the last 15 months we've taken out 79 odd books, returned 78 of them.

The BARBERSHOP, adjoining our PX, is open Monday through Friday from 1400-2200; Saturday 1200-1900 and Sunday 1200-1700. NOT closed Mondays. In the same building you'll find a QUICK PRESS & TAILOR shop as well as a LAUNDRY SHOP. Hours are 1600-2200 weekdays; Saturdays and Sundays 1200 to 1700. This IS closed Mondays. Got that ? OK.

*

WILL KASERNE EM CLUB has a Class B Mess. A special pass issued by your company orderly room is required in transit and hours are 1800-2300 weekdays, 1400-2400 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The Club is closed Mondays, and come to think of it, is anything open around here on Mondays but the shower room ?

The WILL bowling alleys open up at 1700 and close at 2300 daily; 1400-2300 Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Check for specific location at the gate. Damned if we know whereabouts.



Regular off-duty passes run from 1700 until 2400 hours weekdays and Sundays; from 1200 to 0100 Saturdays. Bedcheck is held promptly at 2400 weekdays, and 0100 Saturdays. Exceptions are those on special overnight passes which run until 0730 the morning after the pass was issued. Anyone not meeting these deadlines will be considered AWOL & be subject to a Summary Courts-Martial.

FALLING APART ? LINE FORMS TO THE RIGHT...

Health-wise, here's the story. The dispensary, run by both personnel of the 118th and of the 172 Inf Regt Medical Company, is open for call 24 hrs a day. There is always a CQ on duty trained to handle the most elementary of cases; then there's the MOD - standing for Medical Officer of the Day. Don't be surprised if he turns out to be one of those poor, unenlightened civilians. The fact is that the Army has several German doctors working for it. They are excellently trained and should be offered all the respect due their officer equivalents. Lastly, there's a pharmacist on call day and night who will tend to all your needs, pill & penicillin-fashion.

Alongside the dispensary, there's a laboratory run by professional, though drafted, lab technicians. Next door, there's a 10-bed ward supervised by an adequately trained corpsman. Here's where you'll be confined to quarters in case your illness calls for it.

Serving this kaserno and all units in it, is a Dental Clinic, located just this side of Will Kaserno. It is run by the 88th USAREUR Dental Det., and does an excellent job of servicing your oral needs. Appointments are required - so is a lot of patience, we should add - and your First Sergeant will arrange for you to drop in there whenever it is possible. He does the writing, you the legwork.

In case of emergency, the American Red Cross stands ready to help you. There's a very affable guy, name of James Jones running around the post, who makes his living out of helping others. Mr Jones, contrary to reports that have been floating around and about, is NOT the author of "From Here to Eternity." You'll find his office over at the Regimental Headquarters Building, next to the coke stand, second floor.

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ODDS AND ENDS (or) WHERE DO WE PUT THIS STUFF ?

Every three months, you'll be issued a ration card. The nice thing about these things is that they're one of the few items issued you not colored OD, Shade 53. At this writing, the card is a baby (or sub-infantry) blue. Next month, it'll be chartreuse, we've been informed by a reliable source who will remain nameless. Don't lose this card! It entitles you to 15 packs of cigarettes and one pound of coffee or tea a month.

This reminds us of EES. This is no pass word but stands for the European Exchange System - an outfit that would make both Macy's and Gimbel's look like a bunch of pikers. This huge enterprise, which employs almost as many people as there are troops, will sell you everything from Aardvark-lined dictionaries to porcelain zebras. It's also been said that they sell a lot of stuff they can't get rid of in the States, but don't believe a word of it. The people who don't buy it there buy it here, though they get it at a tremendous saving!

EES also runs a string of radio and watch repair shops as well as a giant photo processing outfit. We think it's "too giant." Therefore, if you are really interested in good work, take your film work to a downtown German store; it may cost more, but you couldn't get better results anywhere in Europe than here in Germany.

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Do you possess an enormous amount of patience? Are you a cool-headed individual, not inclined to lose your temper? Good. Then you're eligible to make a pilgrimage second only to Homer's Odyssey. We're referring, of course, to that hazardous trip that takes you from the kaserne to the Karlsplatz in the heart of Munich.

(PLEASE CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

First you'll board a blue bus right outside the front gate, which travels at the enormous speed of 15 miles an hour. You debark at the PARZIVALPLATZ, and board either streetcars # 3 or # 8. The seven-mile trip which the New York subways make in 10 minutes takes you up to 45-50 minutes here. We're just a bunch of lousy reactionaries, anyway...

If you're lost, once downtown, don't look for a Traveler's Aid Bureau. You won't find one. But if you'll head over to the AMERICAN WAY SERVICE CLUB on LENBACHPLATZ, you're doing just as good as had you found the T.A. Bureau. With the set of a fabulous city route plan the girls there have worked up, it'll take up to 10 minutes to get lost instead of the three it would have taken you without their help. But, seriously, you'll like the gals down at the AMWAY. We do, at any rate.

A WORD FOR THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT!

"These little piggies went to market...these little piggies went to Steiner's Cafe." ...And for every piggie, in uniform or out, there's the Big Bad Wolf. He's always in uniform and wears an armband signifying that he's a member of the Courtesy Patrol.

One way you can stay in the good graces of this fellow or his buddy, (like wolves, they always make the trip in packs), is to keep yourself looking neat at all times. Don't look like a bum, and above all, don't act like one. We hate to be reminded of it as much as you do, but the inescapable fact is that we are the foreigners while the Germans aren't. This may come as a shock to most of you, but the war is over. Big Brother played a conqueror; our act is that of "guest." Remember it.

Well, there you have it. We've just scratched the surface, but we're convinced that before the month is over, you'll be talking native Bahnhof-German like a, uhhh, native. In fact, "ya bedder-bah-lieve it. kerrade!"