

Frankfurt: 'Chicago on the Main'

By HAZEL GUILD

FRANKFURT, Germany—If you were stationed in bombed and shattered Frankfurt at the end of World War II, or saw news-reel pictures of the destroyed, broken city of that era, and are due for assignment to Frankfurt Post now—you are in for a giant shock.

Frankfurt has become "Chicago on the Main," a city jam-packed with 670,000 Germans and a huge American military and civilian community, the metropolitan and cosmopolitan heart of Germany, rebuilt with the latest lines of architecture, and bursting with commercial activities.

At first you may think you're in "Little America." Then you'll realize that it's "Big America"—the American influence—that has made Frankfurt the throbbing, vital, growing world center that it has become.

The headquarters for Northern Area Command, the headquarters for V Corps, and Frankfurt Post, are all in the skyscraping I. G. Farben Building, smack in the center of Frankfurt, and reaching out with tenacles of activity over 22,000 square miles of western Germany.

Frankfurt Post's mission is to provide logistical support and recreational facilities for about 10,000 dependents and civilian employees, and to a military population of about 8000.

Frankfurt Post includes the Frankfurt and Darmstadt areas, and has its main headquarters behind the I. G. Farben Building. It includes these facilities—Gutleut Kaserne; Haur der Jugend or 7811 Kaserne; Drake-Edwards Kaserne; Gibbs Kaserne; McNair Kaserne in Hoechst; Camp Eschborn.

The Post provides 3200 family type quarters, about half for officers and half for NCOs. Current waiting time, however, as of 1 May, was about 25 to 27 weeks for the officers, and 37 to 39 weeks for the NCOs.

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HOUSING on the economy, prospective Frankfurt residents are warned, is expensive and often difficult to find—although the Frankfurt Post's Family Billeting Section offers assistance in finding the proper accommodations on the economy.

"Folks should be prepared to pay at least \$25 per room, and remember that standards are considerably different from those in the States," a billeting official told the Army Times.

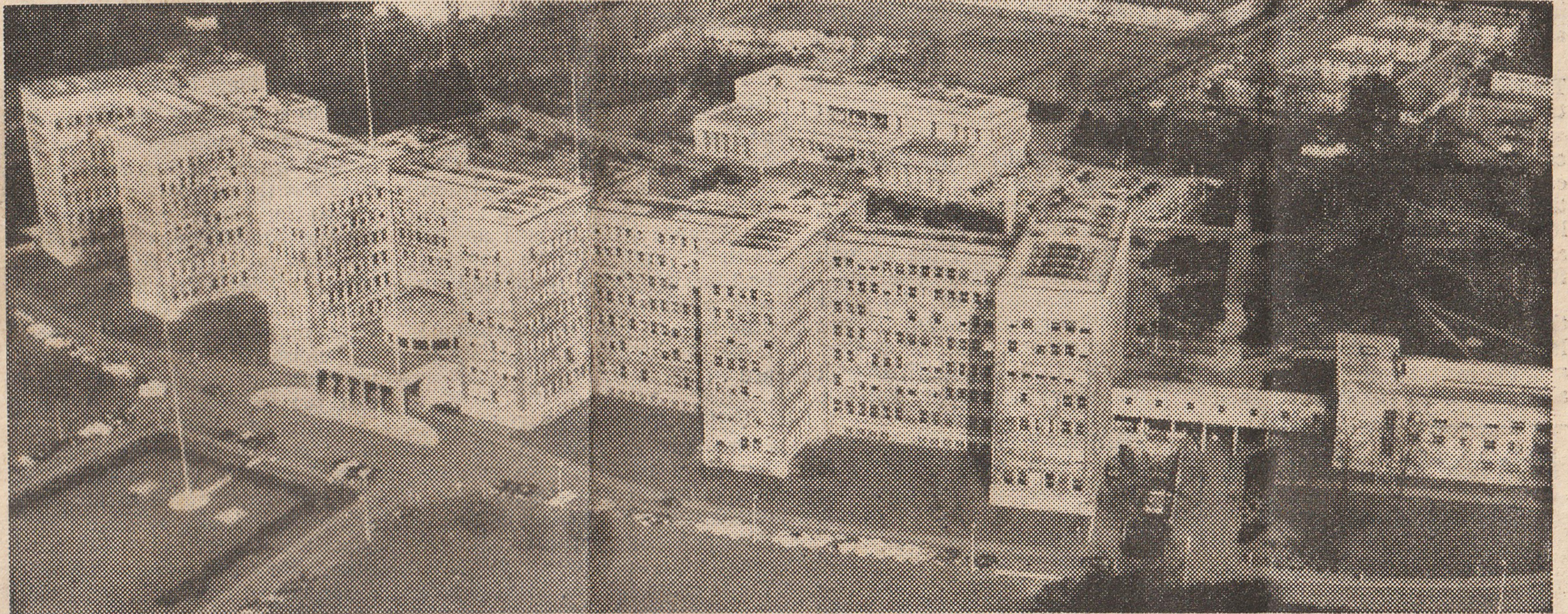
Facilities like the kitchen and bathroom are often shared by several families, gas for heating water is extremely expensive, refrigerators are rarely available in "economy" housing, and housing with more than three bedrooms is nearly impossible to find, he warned.

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THOSE ASSIGNED government quarters will find attractive three and four story apartment buildings, most with balconies, and with modern built-in kitchens and attractive furniture. A few duplexes are available for field grade officers and high-ranking civilian employees.

For those who face a wait in economy housing, here are some handy tips—take along sufficient pots and pans, inexpensive dishes and silver, and a frying pan, in the hold baggage—to tide you over for the two-month wait until the household goods arrive.

Families living in economy



THIS IS THE "LITTLE PENTAGON," the heart of Frankfurt Post, the I. G. Farben building. The building is headquarters for NACom and V Corps.



THE WAY to a woman's heart is through the post exchange, and the giant PX at WAC Circle in Frankfurt makes shopping, or just browsing, a delight.

housing and eligible for government housing can borrow the following items, subject to availability: bed, mattress, chairs, night tables, rugs, dressing tables, pillows, buffet, gateleg table, blankets, garbage pail, range, writing table, coffee tables, lamps.

For economy housing they cannot borrow iceboxes, sofas, dining table, linens, curtains, kitchen utensils.

China and glassware are available for loan in economy housing, but only for 90 days.

Although most of the government housing areas have washing machines, many families prefer to bring their own, as well as electric gadgets, driers, record players and even television sets—which can be converted to pick up the German television shows.

The current in Germany is 220 volts, instead of the 110 volts in America, and electric equipment requires a transformer—various models sell for about \$20 new in the PX, and less than half that at the Frankfurt Thrift Shop.

Maids are still obtainable, although much in demand and constantly more difficult to get. The salary now ranges from \$30 to \$50 a month, plus meals and room.

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LOGISTIC support provided by Frankfurt Post includes buses, cafeterias, building maintenance, supplies and custodial service to a high school, junior high school, two elementary schools and two kindergartens, with a student enrollment of over 4000.

For the housewives, a giant post exchange at WAC Circle is just a couple of minutes drive from the main American housing areas—and seven miles for

families stationed in American housing in Hoechst or Oberursel.

The central WAC Circle PX includes laundry and dry cleaning, pick up point, custom tailor shop, beverage shop, radio, watch and appliance shop, repair shop, barber shop, shoe repair shop, portrait studio, flower shop, snack bar, delicatessen, central garage and parts room. Just across the road from it are the Frankfurt Commissary, Quartermaster Service Station Number One, the Clothing Sales Store and Class VI Liquor Sales Store.

Each caserne also has its own post exchange, laundry and dry

cleaning pick up points, barber shop, snack bar and delicatessen counter. A PX and snack bar are also located in the I. G. Farben Building.

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SERVICEMEN can bowl at McNair Kaserne, Hoechst, Hansa Allee, Drake Kaserne, Betts Area and Gibbs Barracks.

Eight motion picture theaters offer the latest American movies, six libraries provide new books and magazines, weight-lifters and basketball players can find space at three gymnasiums, and three service clubs—the Edwards Service Club, Crooked Wheel Service

Club (at Gibbs) and McNair Service Club at Hoechst offer various forms of recreation.

Arts and crafts, major sports, organized games, skating, swimming, sightseeing tours, junior rifle club and dancing are available to youngsters 7-18 through the American Youth Activities program, and the Frankfurt Teen Club adds games, lounge, snack bar, social dancing, skating and sightseeing tours to take up the slack hours.

If the family dog needs a rabies shot, or Pop has a headache, both get treatment and sympathy—the dog at the 11th Medical Detachment (Veterinary), and the family and children either at the 10th U.S. Army Dispensary, at the excellent 97th General Hospital, or at the 122d Medical Det. (Dental Service).

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THE FAMILY CAR gets the full treatment, too. The car will be initially registered at the Frankfurt Post Vehicle Registration Office before it's picked up at the ship-in point, Bremerhaven, Germany. To register the auto, the owner offers his car title or certificate of ownership and valid insurance. The inspection is done at Bremerhaven, and further registrations, or purchase of a car, are accomplished at the Vehicle Registration Office. Gasoline—available at the Quartermaster stations to those eligible—costs about 14 cents a gallon, as compared with the "on the economy" price tag of about 75 cents a gallon.

Not only do autos have to be registered, but pets and weapons do, too. To register the dog, you present the records of its vac-

(Continued on Next Page)

'A Dedicated Soldier'

"The most dedicated soldier you would ever want to meet" is the way one of the servicemen in his outfit described Lt. Gen. Paul D. Adams, V Corps commander.

Adams, a serious, reserved leader, graduated from West Point in 1928.

In War II, Gen. Adams, then a colonel, served in the Aleutian Islands and in Italy as executive officer of the 1st Special Service Force, a unit specializing in commando-type warfare and composed of both American and Canadian troops. He later commanded the 143d Inf., 36th Div., and fought in the Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and Anzio campaigns and in the assault on Southern France.

During the Korean War, he was CG of the 25th Div., X Corps chief of staff and Chief of Staff, Eighth Army. More recent assignments include CG of the 101st Airborne Div., and later CG of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg. He was

promoted to lieutenant general on 1 April 1959 when he assumed command of V Corps.



LT. GEN. ADAMS

An Exciting Old-New Metropolis

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cination. To register your weapons, present the bill of sale or certificate of ownership.

SPORTSMEN find many diversions in the Frankfurt area—within an evening's drive, you'll find yourself within shooting distance of wild boar and deer, plus many varieties of birds, and brook trout are plentiful.

Garmisch and Berchtesgaden, the popular mountain play areas with American hotel and restaurant and night club facilities, are about a six hour drive from Frankfurt—and Copenhagen and Paris can be visited over a weekend.

Frankfurt Post has nearly every indoor and outdoor sport and there is swimming at half a dozen German pools which meet American sanitary standards, and skiing all winter in the Taunus Mountains, just a 20 minute drive up into the hills.

Riders can rent horses nearby, and those who like to watch the scenery while drifting can take a boat tour down the Rhine or Main rivers.

Camera bugs will find just about every kind of scenery except, perhaps, a jungle or a volcano to photograph in Germany.

Old Roman ruins in the Taunus Mountains are ideal for explorers. Gourmets can find almost every type of restaurants in Frankfurt—Chinese, Indian, Hungarian, Russian, Greek, Swiss, Italian, Turkish, Danish, Yugoslavian, Serbian, Roumanian — and all offer tempting dinners at prices incredibly slim to anyone who has faced the right-hand column of a Stateside menu.

IF YOU WANT to do some drinking "on the economy," the budget-minded serviceman and his wife should remember that American cocktails with Scotch, bourbon, gin or rum are costly because of high duties. It's best to delve into the assortment of excellent German white wines and champagnes—a champagne cocktail generally costs only about 40 cents—and a giant liter of famed German beer costs about the same. The traditional Frankfurt drink, a potent brew called apple wine, is about 15 cents a glass — and packs a mighty wallop, so the newcomers should be warned.

Folks who venture out to eat or drink on the economy, keep in mind that Germans are more formal than Americans—it's customary for servicemen to wear ties and jackets, with low open-necked sport shirts frowned on in many of the nicer places.

Going to the NCO or Officers Club often means going out formally—with the men in dark suits or dress blues for the officers, and with their ladies in cocktail length or floor-length evening wear.

Exploring the city will introduce you to such places as Goethe's house, the large zoo, the flower-filled Palmengarten, the Stadel Museum which is rich



New Post CO

COL. ELLIS D. BLAKE became commander of Frankfurt Post in mid-April. He had been G-4 for NACom. His decorations include the Silver Star and Bronze Star. Off-duty, he is an enthusiastic golfer and baseball player.

in Renaissance art, and for the out-at-night crowd, and the city-financed Opera House. There are also several jazz cellars as well as coffee houses to twiddle an evening away over a cup of strong espresso while reading the local magazines loaned free by the management. And there are nightclubs with variety acts and girly shows.

The horse show, auto show, boxing, and special concerts, with artists ranging from Louis Armstrong to conductor Herbert von Karajan, are all on schedule the year at Frankfurt.

When a wife goes out to spend her husband's paycheck, she will find plenty of good buys at the Frankfurt stores, which are jam-packed with merchandise, new and old.

(A tip—it's customary to wear rather dressy attire when shopping, with slacks frowned on and shorts definitely not proper for the grown-up gals).

Favorite buys in Frankfurt are cuckoo clocks from the Black Forest and grandfather clocks from the antique stores, German cameras, oil paintings of local scenes, Solingen stainless steel, Rosenthal china, stereo record-player and radio combinations, beer mugs, and some of the families take home beautiful pieces of Danish teakwood furniture, purchased in Frankfurt. German cars are good buys, too, with Opel and Volkswagen and Mercedes among the most popular brands.

Taking part in local holidays is a treat for many of the soldiers. Frankfurt provides a quaint Christmas Market in the square which houses the Court-house.

Folks can buy the seasonal goodies like gingerbread hearts, the Frankfurt good-luck figures of chimney sweeps made of dried prunes, the local herb candies, and the kiddies can enjoy the carnival atmosphere.

Probably the biggest free-for-all comes during the colorful Fasching season, six weeks of merriment and mirth comparable to New Orleans' carnival. The parades and costume parties are the prelude to Lent, with celebrations in every community, all coming to a sudden halt on Ash Wednesday.

Yes, Frankfurt is an important and exciting post. It gives a serviceman a chance to feel he's a part of America's NATO commitments of protecting the free world, and it gives him a feeling of being able to absorb the best of the old world along with the finest of the new.

SAYS NACom CG

JUNE 14, 1960 (Europe)

ARMY TIMES 37

Frankfurt Is Good Duty

FRANKFURT, Germany—"Be glad you're coming to Frankfurt," says the Northern Area Command's commanding general—who is serving his second tour here.

"Our mission is logistic support, which includes maintenance of equipment and facilities for the troops and for the American dependents stationed in Europe," Maj. Gen. Ralph R. Mace, NACom's top officer, told Army Times.

"We operate all the commissaries, all the schools, all the chapels, all of the repairs and utilities facilities — everything connected with the logistic support for the troops and for the dependents."

NACom's top "housekeeper" points out that his men are the watchdogs over the facilities at 12 posts, and 14 subposts, an area stretching all the way from Kassel to Karlsruhe, from Bamberg to Baumholder, including five lands of West Germany, and scraping up against the Soviet Zone on the north, on France at the southwest, and leaning against Luxembourg and Belgium on the west.

Northern Area Command was "born" in 1952, to handle the troop housekeeping, housing, theaters, storehouses and goods, and it expanded in spring of 1958 by taking over facilities in Heidelberg, Mannheim, and Karlsruhe, then grew larger again that same year when it absorbed the former Western Area Command, including Kaiserslautern, Pirmasens, Baumholder and Bad Kreuznach.

FOR ANYONE assigned to help out NACom on its tasks, Mace warned, "One of the biggest problems of today is to keep up with the growing population. We have a constant problem of trying to stretch our school facilities to keep up with the number of children ready to go to school."

Here in Frankfurt, he added, in one of the two elementary schools, there are eight first grade classes, six classes for second graders, three for fourth graders, and the huge student enrollment starts to level off only in the sixth grade.

The bigger families have put a strain on the housing, too, Mace added, but for folks coming to the Frankfurt area now, housing conditions have been considerably improved and made more attractive.

"We have just repainted interiors, replaced worn items of furniture and are replacing draperies in the American housing areas in Frankfurt," Mace said.



MAJ. GEN. MACE

Despite the command's financial economies, the big spring clean-up and paint-up has been arranged by careful planning.

THE FRANKFURT housing areas average about four years old, and Mace commented, "many families were living in restricted areas, with children in apartment buildings, and children inevitably damaged lawns and fixtures."

"The little rascals printed hearts and 'I Love You' on the sides of the buildings, and all that trash, and we were gradually approaching some first-class slum areas," Mace said. "In the last year we have undertaken a monstrous beautification program, with over 10,000 trees planted in Frankfurt post alone, providing peatmoss and topsoil and grass seed to the sponsors, and have encouraged them to take some pride in their living conditions and do something about the housing areas."

"Our areas are being improved tremendously. Many of the housing and troop areas were very dingy from the outside as only these concrete buildings can get. So to get away from that and raise the morale of our troops, we have painted exteriors of the buildings wherever possible."

SLUDGE from one of the renovating plants which was formerly thrown away has been made into a very substantial paint—at the incredibly low cost of eight cents a gallon, Mace reported. So the painting project has been a tremendous morale gainer, at very insignificant cost.

"It's a wonderful city here," Mace said. "It's the main metropolis of Germany, the chief commercial and communication center, and people who take the

time and trouble to find out about it will have a worthwhile tour."

NICKNAMED "Lefty," Mace points out that he was left-handed as a youngster, when it was considered wrong to write with the left hand, so he was taught to write with his right hand.

An enthusiastic golfer, he played left-handed golf until he was 16 years old — then the pro convinced him to switch to the right, and the following year he was runnerup for championship at the Chillicothe golf course.

Now, he says, he putts left-handed, but plays the rest of the game with his right — a system his opponents sometimes claim is unfair because it's too confusing.

Gen. and Mrs. Mace are very active in community affairs, and in promoting German-American relations.

Among the most successful projects they have arranged was "Operation Courier," releasing 50,000 carrier pigeons with messages of good will, during German-American week in Frankfurt in May 1960. Gen. Mace generously points out that the pigeon project was his wife's idea. It reaped tremendous international good will, as German and American newspapers and thousands of citizens enjoyed the stunt, and all the pigeons got home safely.

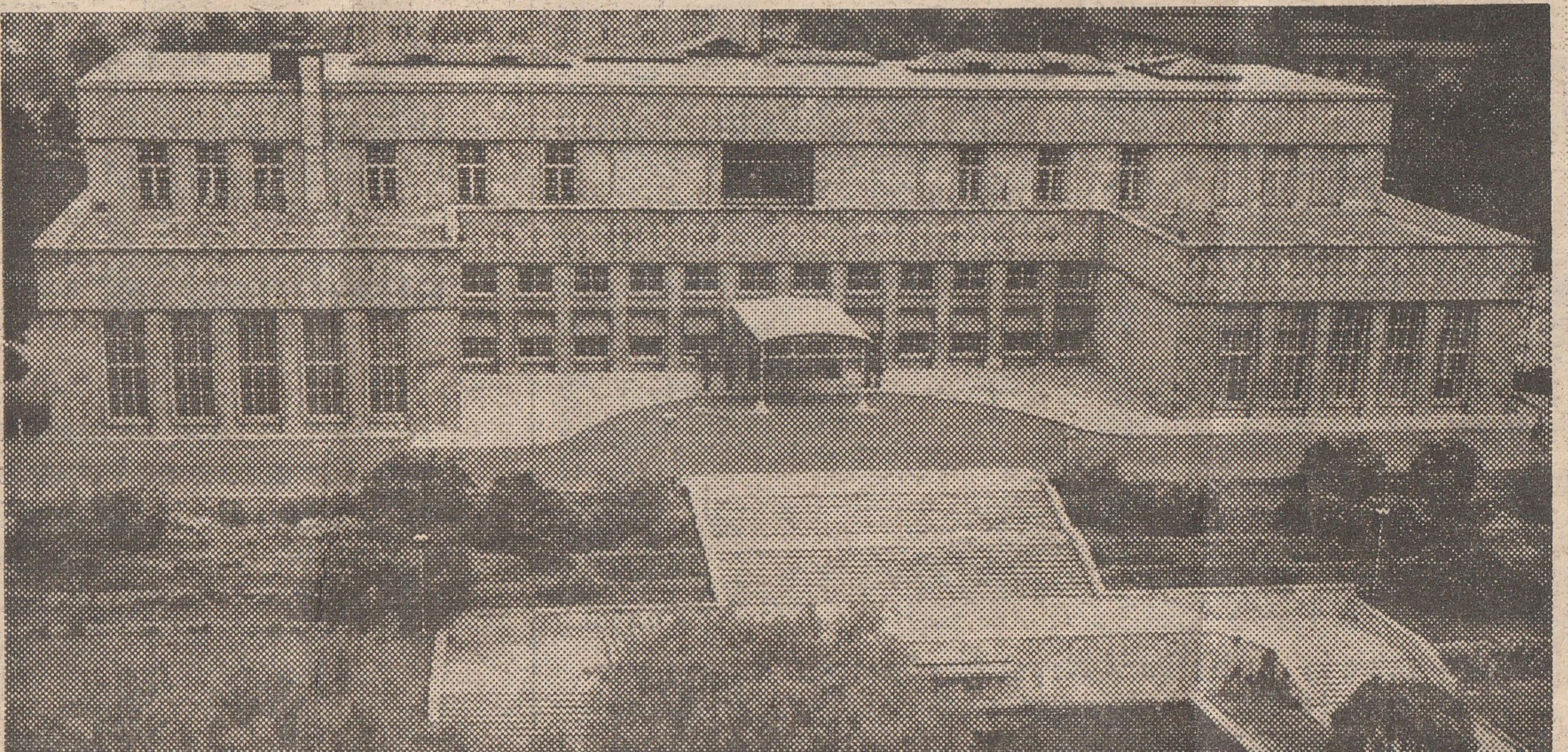
Gen. Mace graduated from West Point in 1929. His decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. He and his wife, Virginia, have two children: Virginia Mace Whittington, wife of Maj. William E. Whittington, and Lt. Arthur F. Mace.

Before War II, Gen. Mace served with various field artillery units in the States, Philippine Islands and Hawaii. During War II he served in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. He was exec of IV Corps Arty and later CO of the 424th FA Gp. He took part in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley campaigns.

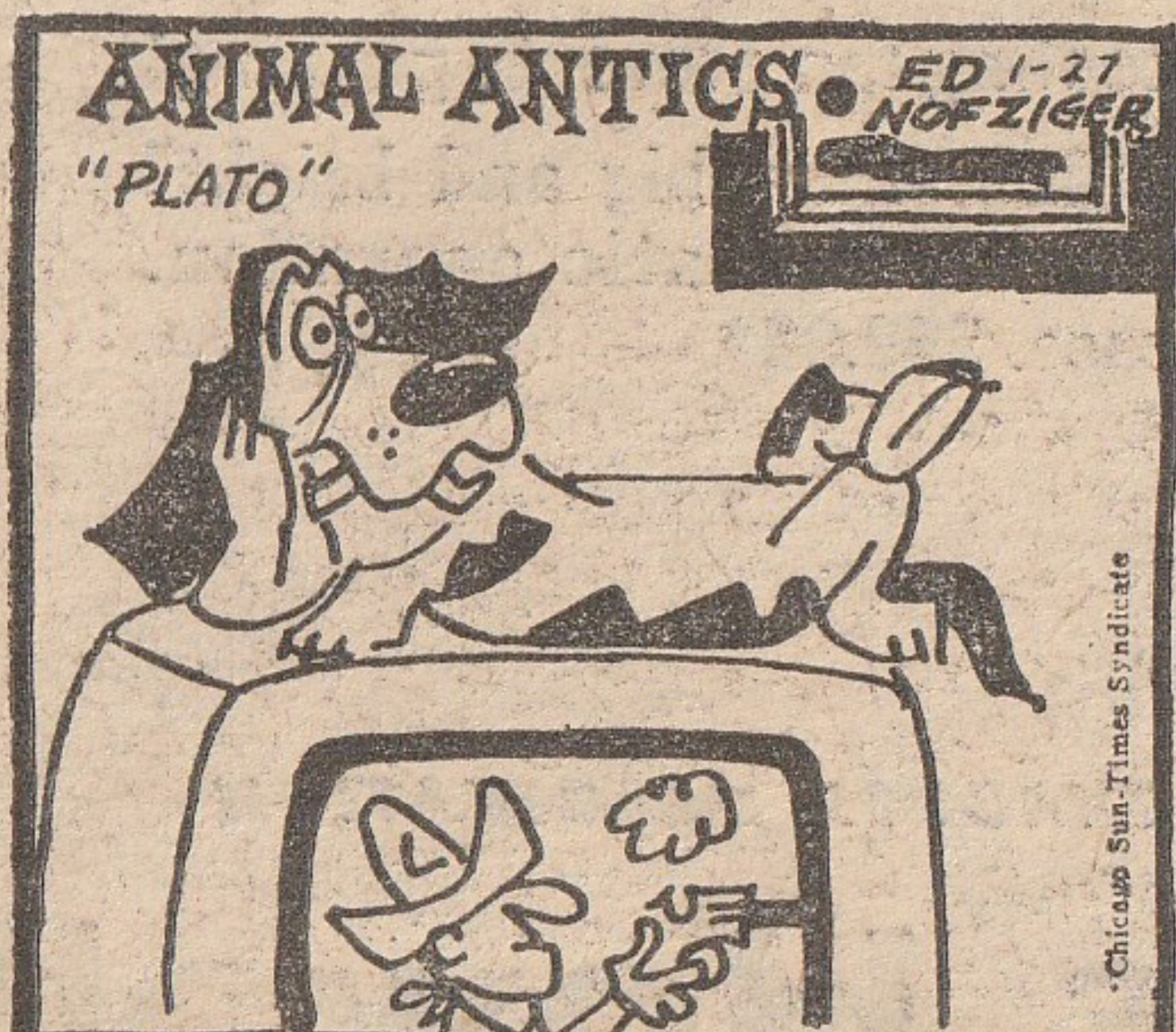
In Germany from 1950-53 he was exec and then CO of 1st Div-Arty and later Asst. Chief of Staff, G2, V Corps.

Arriving in Korea in September 1954, he assumed command of 7th DivArty and continued in that assignment until July 1955 when he joined the Korean Military Advisory Group. Following his Korean duty, and after duty at Fort McPherson and Fort Chaffee, he came back to Europe in June 1958 as CG, VII Corps Arty. He served in that post until his assignment as CG of NACom in January 1959.

Next Week: Seoul Area Command



THE FRANKFURT officers' club, known as the Casino, lies behind the Farben building.



"Nicest think about TV—it's warm on top!"