

# FACHARBEIT

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## Englisch

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**The US Garrison in Augsburg after the  
Second World War**

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## **Introduction**

The Second World War ended with the German surrender on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1945. But for Augsburg, which had been occupied by the American troops, the war ended a few days before the German surrender, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Since the relationship between American soldiers and German civilians changed from military occupation into friendship, there had been a lot of gain for the population of Augsburg in different sections of life and some of them will be shown in this essay. My work is based on the exhibition "Bewahrt Eure Stadt..." by "Stadtarchiv Augsburg" and on essays about the end of the war and the time of a new start. I also went to the archives of the Augsburg newspaper and made researches about articles between 1945 and 1955. Even though the American troops stayed until summer/autumn of 1998, I will only show the developments in Augsburg under the American occupation until the year of 1955, where the friendship between Germans and Americans only began.

First I will start with the invasion of the allied troops in Germany and the main aims the allied powers had in order to organize a political new start in Germany. Then I am going to write about Augsburg after the Second World War, about the occupation of Augsburg and also about the administration of the city by the American troops. After that I will plot the contact of the civilian population with the US military, such as security issues, the housing situation, problems, which resulted from the US Garrison staying in Augsburg, and benefits of the American occupation for the civilian population of Augsburg.

## **Germany between 1945 and 1955**

After twelve years of the National Socialist government in Germany the end of the Second World War also meant the end of the Nazi Regime. When the allied troops arrived in the North of France on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944, Hitler had no chances to win the war any more. The official end of the Second World War was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1945 with the German surrender. Germany had been occupied by the allied troops by now and was divided into four sections. The Russians occupied the East of Germany, the English took over the North, the French invaded the West and the Americans occupied the South. Even though there had been four sections of Germany, there had also been agreements of the allied powers on how to treat Germany. One of these agreements

was the agreement of Potsdam, which had been made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August in 1945. The five aims on which everyone of the four allied powers agreed were: Demilitarisation, Denazification, Deindustrialisation, Decentralisation and Democratisation. The allied powers wanted to ban another war and so they forbade a German army. Germany should also be cleared of all National Socialists. The Nazi Party had been dissolved and the former members of the Party had to be eliminated from their positions, especially the judges, the police, and the teachers had to give up their jobs. All military industries had to be closed down to stop the production of war supplies and weapons. The allied powers wanted Germany to specialize on agriculture and on peaceful industries, such as clothing for example. The administration of Germany was organized through a military government lead by the allied powers and the administration of the states was individually organized by the country which occupied this state. This will be explained later on when I deal with the establishment of the military government in Augsburg. Germany was not allowed to have a central government until the elections of the first German Parliament on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1949, where Theodor Heuss had been elected as first German President and Konrad Adenauer had been elected as first German Chancellor. Three of the allied powers, England, France, and the USA wanted Germany to become a democracy, whereas Russia wanted Germany to become a communist country. Therefore Germany was splitted into two parts, West Germany and East Germany. But since the American troops occupied parts of West Germany, I am not going into detail with the administration of East Germany. Before the agreement of Potsdam, there had been a conference in Quebec 1944 between Churchill from England and Roosevelt from America, where they decided on the five aims of the Re-education program. Besides the ones standing above they agreed on Collective Guilt and Non-Fraternisation. Only Germany was to be held responsible for the breakout of the Second World War and therefore it had to pay reparations to the other countries. Non-Fraternisation means that no contact between the German civilian population and the allied military was allowed then. This restriction had been loosened after some time of occupation and so a good relationship, even friendship between the ones who occupied and the occupied ones could develop within the years. Another significant issue for the economic development of Germany was the Marshall Plan and the European Recovery Program (ERP) which had been passed in the US-Congress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1948. The USA gave credits to Europe in order to improve the European economy and to create a market for the US overproduction. In 1949 the military government officially approved a constitution for Germany although it was still not a sovereign state until the year of

1955, when Germany had been admitted into the West European Union (WEU) and into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)<sup>1</sup>.

### **The invasion of Augsburg by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

In Bavaria, it took more than one month for the US military to occupy the state. The American troops went from north to south and invaded each city by itself. In Augsburg, General Fehn was responsible for the city and he did not want to surrender without fighting because he still acted on Hitler's order to defend Germany and in his case, Augsburg. How could a peaceful invasion of Augsburg take place, then? Mayor of Augsburg was Josef Mayer at this time, who had been a National Socialist but no fanatic. He wanted to give up the city without any fighting, so that there would not be too much damage to the city and no more civilians would be killed by the invasion of Augsburg. Therefore he did not fulfill the order to turn Augsburg into a defending situation, which brought him in danger<sup>2</sup>. In December 1944, Georg Achatz and Dr. Rudolf Lang founded the Augsburg freedom party, which was an organisation, that wanted to prevent Augsburg from fighting against the American troops. After Josef Mayer had almost been arrested by the SS, they got in contact with him and wanted to check if he was also interested in a non-fighting invasion of Augsburg, since there were no signs of winning the war any more and the three of them contacted another organisation called "King John". They had secret meetings in the school for blind people in the Jesuitengasse but they changed the headquarter to the monastery of St. Elizabeth because shots had been fired against Rudolf Lang, but he hardly escaped, and from the monastery the bunker where General Fehn was staying at, could be supervised<sup>3</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April a phone call from the American troops stationed in Aystetten arrived the freedom party in Augsburg. They promised the US military to make a peaceful invasion possible. But when Josef Mayer tried to persuade General Fehn to give up the city, he refused. The situation in Augsburg was very critical, because the Chief Commander of the US military told on the telephone that: "Two thousand bombers are ready to start against the town. In half an hour everything will be finished!"<sup>4</sup> On the same day a leaflet had been thrown down on Augsburg. It leads:

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<sup>1</sup> cf. Berg, R., Wege durch die Geschichte, Grundkurs Geschichte 13, 132

<sup>2</sup> cf. Gelberg, K.-U., Die friedliche Übergabe der Stadt Augsburg am 28. April 1945-keine Selbstverständlichkeit, in Bewahrt Eure Stadt...Kriegsende und Neuanfang, 12

<sup>3</sup> cf. Filsner, K., 28. April 1945-Befreiung der Stadt Augsburg

<sup>4</sup> cf. Stadtarchiv Augsburg, Trümmer Jeeps und leere Mägen, 26.

**“Soldiers and civilians of the city of Augsburg!**

**A lot of allied troops are on their way to Augsburg and they threaten the city with total destruction. They are ready to cover up the city with thousand tons of steal. Keep your city and all of the inhabitants from total destruction. As a sign for the peaceful invasion, hoist white flags on every building of the city. Every member of the “Wehrmacht” has to leave the city borders. Augsburg will not be destroyed if these proofs of a peaceful invasion are given:**

**No German soldier and no gun will be allowed to stay in the city.**

**Save your old city and its inhabitants from the rain of steal, which threatens to destroy Augsburg!**

**Chief Commander of the Allied Powers”<sup>5</sup> (my translation)**

The Chief Commander agreed to give the members of the freedom party an hour to change General Fehn’s mind in order to give up the city. Then Dr. Lang went to tell Josef Mayer about the American conditions giving in order to prevent Augsburg from total destruction. Since they could not talk Fehn into surrender, they tried to persuade Augsburg’s “Gauleiter” Wahl to talk to Fehn. But he could not convince General Fehn either, because he still had orders from the military to defend the town. Therefore the last attempt to surrender legally failed. Then the freedom party made calls to the population to hoist white flags and to take away the barriers with which bridges had been blocked. Franz Hesse, a member of the freedom party, contacted the third Battalion 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, which stayed near Steppach. He assured Major John O’Connell that the Augsburg freedom party would keep General Fehn under surveillance. He also said that the US troops could pass every bridge and there would be no disturbances within the city. Hesse led the American troops into the city and then called the freedom party again in order to get new orders on how to act next. Hesse helped the American troops to capture the bridge over the Wertach, where a shot had been fired. But as found out later this shot had been fired by an American gun. Then at the Gögginger bridge, the Chief Commander decided to send the second Battalion to the city, too, and Hesse headed with his own car to General Fehn’s headquarters without another coincidence and the two Batallions followed him. There they met with the freedom party and surprised the Nazi city administration, staying in the bunker, without a shot being fired. General Fehn was ordered to surrender and he asked to make a last phone call to his military. Major O’Conell said: “I give you 5 minutes time to surrender.”<sup>6</sup> and went into the bunker to wait. Then the phone rang and Dr. Lang and Achatz knew how bad the situation was. Fehn did not have surrendered yet and there were still about 2.000 SS-men staying between Hochzoll and Mering waiting to be called. The members of the freedom party knew that if Fehn did not surrender and a fight did break out they would be dead. So they got Major O’Conell into a quick acting. He agreed and said to Fehn: “Two minutes time!”<sup>6</sup> but they said: “No, one minute!”<sup>6</sup> and Major O’Conell agreed. After some seconds of silence he got up and said: “The time is

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<sup>5</sup> cf. Stadtarchiv Augsburg, Bewahrt Eure Stadt, 22

<sup>6</sup> cf. Lang, R., Die Übergabe der Stadt Augsburg, in Kriegsende und Neuanfang in Augsburg, 134 f.

over. General get up!”<sup>4</sup> When the General had to leave the bunker with Major O’Connell he saw that he was taken by surprise and was arrested by only a few American soldiers and the members of the freedom party. Two days later, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April Major O’Connell thanked Franz Hesse for his service to the American troops: “Through him we were able to take the city with its garrison and commanding general with scarcely a shot being fired.”<sup>7</sup> Since Franz Hesse was the one person who contacted the US troops, he was the one who made it possible for the US military to enter the city in the view of the American military. But Rudolf Lang and Georg Achatz, the ones who founded the freedom party and made the dangerous attempt to surprise General Fehn in order to achieve a peaceful surrender had an important role, too. Not to forget the mayor of Augsburg, Josef Mayer, who did not act on the given orders and prevented the defense of Augsburg. Of course, some lucky coincidences, such as the escape of Lang and Achatz when shots had been fired at them or General Fehn’s surrender without resistance, helped to save Augsburg from a total destruction, as it had been in other Bavarian cities. American soldiers told that Augsburg was one of the best kept cities in Germany. This had been the first step of the American occupation in Augsburg. The next step was to set up a military government and to announce a new mayor since the current mayor was a member of the Nazi party. Those decisions had to be made very quickly in order to guarantee for a new start and for the rebuilding of the city.

### **The establishment of a US Military Government in Bavaria**

In order for a better understanding of the structure of the US military government, I will first explain the system, that has been set up in Bavaria and parts of Hesse. Supreme Military Governor in Germany was General Eisenhower and Deputy Military Governor was Gen. Lt. Lucius D. Clay, who made the actual decisions that were important for the Germans. In 1947 he became Supreme Military Governor and he was a great gain for Germany. Three Military Governments = European Civil Affairs Regiments = ECAR had been built and below these were eight at the beginning and then five Service Administrative Companies = SAC for Bavaria. The detachments which were below the SACs were of different kinds for rural and urban detachments. At the beginning the different Commanders of the troops and their “Stabsabteilungen” G 5 were in charge of those Detachments but then they changed this system, so that the Military Government was in charge of these Detachments. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October the US-Forces European Theater = USFET – G5 were now called Office of US Military Government = OMGUS.

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<sup>7</sup> cf. Gelberg, K.-U., Die friedliche Übergabe der Stadt Augsburg am 28. April 1945, 13

This continued with the two US troops, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion = Eastern Military District, staying in Munich changed to OMG Bavaria and the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion = Western Military District, staying in Frankfurt changes to OMG Western District. This had a lot of consequences for the Military Governments because the change also meant that many officers were dismissed from their positions, especially the ones with much experience since they had many "good-points". Until the end of 1945 40% of all MG-officers and 50 % of all MG-troops were dismissed. The replacement of these officers were mostly young non-experienced Americans and so the standard of the Military Government sank. Therefore Gen. Lt. Clay wanted Germany to have its own government very quickly. The first elections were held in Germany on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January in 1946. Another change was to turn US soldiers into US civil servants, since Clay announced on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1945: "Government is not a job for soldiers."<sup>8</sup> Until the end of December 1945 the MG-Detachments gave up their functions and the German local governments took over. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April in 1948 the system of the Military Government in Bavaria changed into a Field operation Division = FOD, which was divided into several branches and areas and it stayed that way until the German constitution had been approved on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1949<sup>8</sup>. The first Prime Minister of Bavaria became Fritz Schäffer. He had been appointed by the Military Government on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1945.

All of the decrees passed by the Military government were written in the form of the Bavarian Official Gazette. The first one was published with an announcement of Prime Minister Fritz Schäffer, where he addressed to the population of Bavaria about the establishment of a new Bavarian government, and it also contained (1) a Decree on the Levy of an Emergency Tax on Incomes in Bavaria east of the Rhine, (2) an Ordinance dated July 18, 1945 on Price Formation and Price Control in Bavaria, (3) an Ordinance on the Termination of "Iron Saving", (4) a regulation about the "Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank" and (5) the Subscription of the "Bayerisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt". To (1): This had been passed because of the present national emergency. Everybody who had to pay income tax was also subject to this emergency tax. It amounted to 25 % and was deducted from the wages or salaries subject to income tax. Wages or salaries not exceeding RM 2160.- a year were not subject to the emergency tax. This decree was effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1945. To (2): The formation of prices was now carried out by the Ministry of Economics in Munich (Bavarian price formation office) and it also took over the function of the former reichs-commissioner of price-control. To (3): "Iron-Saving" was to be made for the last time. The amounts saved had to be paid to responsible banks by the employers not later than August 5, 1945 and the Iron-Saving-Accounts were now treated as normal saving

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<sup>8</sup> cf. Schmidt, H.-J., *An der Grenze zur Freiheit*, 40 ff.



accounts. To (4): All 4 % (originally 8 %) Gold Mortgage Bonds had to be delivered to the Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank in order to avoid losses. To (5): The "Bayerisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt" was subscribed by all offices of the Bavarian State Administration, all Bavarian offices of the Reich Administration, the administrations of all communal offices, all offices of ecclesiastical administration, and all corporations under public law, and it costed RM 1.50 per quarter, which had to be paid to the "Postscheckkonto" of the Main Mint Office München 63 611<sup>9</sup>. In 1945 a law, which stated that the official language was English and all official matters concerning the military government had to be transacted in that language, had been passed. But all Military Government enactments and orders were usually published in German, too. Otherwise most of the civilian population were not able to understand most of these enactments and orders. It was no excuse to say that the official language was not understood or that the German translation differed from the original version<sup>10</sup>. The second "Bayerisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt" was published on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1945 and it was about the Elimination of the Black-Market Activities. Before the "Bayerische Gesetz- und Verordnungsblätter" were published, so-called Proclamations had been handed out to the Bavarian civilian population. One of those Proclamations was the Proclamation Nr. 2 by Dwight D. Eisenhower, the General of the Army, USA. This was an important one because it was about the division of the US zone of occupation into three parts: Groß-Hessen, Württemberg-Bayern, and Bayern. There were also published some notices by the Military Government-Germany, the Supreme Commander's Area of Control. One of these notices contained the instruction that no person was allowed to go beyond the limits of his town without a written permit of Military Government, it also contained a curfew, that permitted the citizens only to circulate on the streets between a certain time. The Military Government was allowed to shoot at any person who stayed outside after the permitted hours or tried to hide or escape. These are only some of the regulations made by the Military Government, shown as examples of how they tried to direct the new local governments that had been set up and were still under the control of the Military Government. After having shown the establishment of the Military Government in the whole US occupied section, I will now go into details with the developments of Augsburg under the occupation of the US army.

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<sup>9</sup> cf. Bayerisches Gesetz- u. Verordnungsblatt Nr.1, München, den 15.09.1945

<sup>10</sup> cf. Stadtarchiv Augsburg, Bewahrt Eure Stadt, 25

### **The situation in Augsburg after the Second World War**

Augsburg, after the invasion of the US troops, had been under the control of the Military Government Detachment G1H2 and their main aim was to build a proper administration together with a denazification program and later to guarantee for a democratisation. Therefore all political activities had to be permitted by the Military Government and it was not until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1946 that the Military Government officially permitted the foundation of the parties in Augsburg. One of the first actions made by the Military Government was the appointment of a new mayor. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1945 Dr. Wilhelm Ott became new mayor of Augsburg. His tasks were to guarantee for a proper work of the city administration and to dismiss all National Socialists from their former positions. He had to give a list to the Military Government, which stayed in the former "Reichsbahngebäude" at the Prinzregentenplatz, where he listed all persons being able to build the new city council. There were no former Nazi members allowed and this list had to be turned to the American officer, who was in charge, Major Towe. The cooperation was without major problems and the priority for both was to reinstall a working supply system for the civilian population. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May the Military Government of Swabia gave political questionnaires to the population in order to sort out all National Socialists. But when Major Towe had been replaced by Major Everett Cofran on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1945, he gave out new questionnaires, which gave a detailed view of the political past and of the life of these people, and his denazification program was a lot harder than Major Towe's. His aversion to the Germans led to a complete clean of the administration from National Socialists and that also meant a loss of qualified civil servants for the administration. When General Lucius D. Clay visited Augsburg in August 1945, he found out during the welcoming meal that a butcher, who was a former member of the Nazi party, had been supplying the American military and he demanded to expand the denazification program to the private economy, too. The Decree number eight, known as the "Augsburg Metzger-Direktive", passed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 1945, guaranteed that people who profited from the NS regime did not profit from the occupation time as well. Major Cofran made mayor Ott responsible for the incident and he dismissed him from his position as mayor. His successor was the Jewish lawyer Ludwig Dreifuß<sup>11</sup>. The denazification program was not the only task Major Cofran had. He also assembled daily with the

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<sup>11</sup> cf. Gückel, N., Spruchkammern und Persilscheine-Probleme der Entnazifizierung, in Kellerwohnung und Persilschein, 80

mayor of Augsburg, the regional administration and the Personnel Chief of the city administration. In his report of the Detachment G1H2 for the month of July 1945 he explained how far the denazification program has come and what problems had there been with qualified workers now missing. He wanted to add to the radio program "Radio Augsburg" comments on matters of cultural interest such as architecture, school programs, and music. The food situation had been fair but there was still a shortage of sugar and fat. Fresh vegetables were rare, too, but the supply with bread and potatoes was good. All motorcars, trucks, and motorcycles had been registered and each applicant had to take a road test before he got the admission to drive again. Great effort was being made in order to reopen the schools again and to find a director for the Augsburg's school system<sup>12</sup>. As the attitude of the allied powers changed towards Germany in a more friendly one, Major Cofran had been replaced by Major R.A. Norton in August 1945, who treated the population of Augsburg very well. They received more democratic freedom and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1945 the "Schwäbische Landeszeitung" was published twice a week. It replaced the newspaper of the US-troops for the population and the parties had been allowed, too. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October the Augsburg town council had his first conference and it consisted of 15 members. The first elections for the town council took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1946 and the new town council consisted of 41 members. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March a Decree for the liberation from all National Socialists and from the military had been passed and so called "Spruchkammern" had been installed in Augsburg. All the accused persons were divided into five sections with the help of the already explained questionnaires: main guilty, incriminated, minor incriminated, nominal member, non-guilty. This process went on pretty quickly and in April 1949 all the "Spruchkammern" were closed again and the denazification program has come to an end<sup>13</sup>. Major R.A. Norton wrote in his report of the Detachment G1H2 for September 1945 that an advisory council had been set up and that there was a growing desire for the Germans to form political parties again and at the end of the month a permission for three parties to form: the Socialists (SPD), the Communists (KPD), and the Christian Union (CU), was granted. The schools were almost ready to open again, even though there was still a lack in qualified teachers and the school buildings had to be put in a good shape again, and the cultural life with concerts, operettas, and movies was established and became a part of the daily life. More authority had been replaced in the hands of the civil government and an advisory council consisting of thirteen men and two women was set up. The food situation and the health situation was getting better although a lot of people were suffering from venereal diseases. An authority was given for the rebuilding of the Fuggerei, not only to

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<sup>12</sup> cf. Major Everett S. Cofran: Bericht des Detachment G1H2 für den Monat Juli 1945, in Kriegsende und Neuanfang in Augsburg 1945, 139 ff.

<sup>13</sup> cf. Stadtarchiv Augsburg, Bewahrt Eure Stadt, 36

restore one of the landmarks of Augsburg but also to aid in the emergency housing requirements. The total number of unemployed people increased slightly over that of the previous month. The transportation of fire wood into Augsburg for the next winter had to be organized in order to guarantee for the heating of the buildings<sup>14</sup>.

The Military Government did not only guarantee for the rebuilding of a political system but also tried to help with the Democratisation of the population, which took place by showing movies about the American way of life and also about the war. Therefore the Military Government gave permission to reopen the cinemas again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1945. The American movies were also made to show the population of Augsburg something about the country and the inhabitants of America. One of the aims of the US military during the occupation time was to show the Germans that the American way of life is the best way of life<sup>15</sup>.

But there were more problems to face for the US military in Augsburg, than the establishment of a Military Government. They also had to establish a new system for the police and one of the first things the US troops did after they invaded Augsburg, was to send an US Captain with two soldiers and with machine guns to the police station in Augsburg in the Prinzregentenstraße. He told the policemen that the Military Government was now in charge of the police power. The policemen were allowed to offer the population a security service in their normal clothing, without any uniforms but with a patch on their arms and every policeman had to give up his weapon. On the same day US soldiers looted the houses of the civilian population to find weapons, and they also took away watches, jewelery and cameras from the population. The Augsburg policemen were not able to do anything because the soldiers were armed and they did not have weapons any more. Some soldiers even shot at policemen<sup>16</sup>. The US military set up a military police to replace the former police in Augsburg. This was called Security-Police and it's head became MP-Major Zappich. But due to the non-existing local orientation, the Security-Police could not stop raids, holdups, burglaries and murders. It was also more important for the Security-Police to stop the civilian population from using the military streets than to fight the raising crime rate. The US military did their denazification program with the policemen, too, and they dismissed almost everybody from his or her former position. Only 20 out of 442 policemen had not been a member of the National Socialist party. The Military Government had to find new policemen who could fill in the old positions. So the new police consisted of men from different occupations. They had to undergo a threeweek

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<sup>14</sup> cf. Lt. Col. Richard A. Norton: Bericht des Detachment G1H2 für September 1945, in Kriegsende und Neuanfang in Augsburg 1945, 145 ff.

<sup>15</sup> cf. Schletterer, E., Als die Bilder wieder Laufen lernten - Kino nach der gesellschaftlichen Katastrophe, in Kellerwohnung und Persilschein, 115 f.

<sup>16</sup> cf. Utzni, K., ‚Nach dem Einmarsch herrscht das Chaos‘, in Augsburger Zeitung (AZ) no. 46 (25.02.1997), n.p.

course, which was held by Günther Bialek, a man who knew little about law and had no police experiences, in order to get instructed into the tasks of a policeman. Despite the lack in the training of these policemen, most of them did well within the years. The first police school had been founded 1947 and then the former policemen got a proper training. For the support of the police, some MP-soldiers had been stationed at the police stations, because the policemen were not allowed to be armed. And without any firearms and just wooden sticks as their weapons, they were powerless against criminals, especially against a group of criminals. The police also had to use the vehicles of the US army, because all German vehicles had been stolen during the first days after the war ended. In the middle of July 1945, the Military Government allowed the policemen to carry firearms and the criminal rate just dropped dramatically then. But the Augsburg police was still not allowed to use their firearms against US soldiers, who misbehaved, or to protect themselves against drunken US soldiers<sup>17</sup>. Besides the regular police another security service existed, that consisted of Germans. This was mainly because the US military needed someone for the surveillance of their occupied buildings, the apartments of officers, and of their army clubs. The US soldiers should not be used for this task. 1946 the US army decided to hire German civilians for this job. This was a quite popular job, because of good payment, about 220 DM a month, good food supply and a clean place to stay. It was of great interest for the dismissed soldiers to join the so called Industry-Police (IP). This institution was also seen very critical by the civilian population. The members of the IP were civilians but they were allowed to carry firearms, did field exercises, they wore American uniforms, and they could become anything from a Recruit to a Major. Most people of Augsburg were against the IP, even though it only existed within the US barracks. But for the opponent of the IP this was the first step for the rearmament of Germany. The IP was fully accepted by the US soldiers and they stayed at first only in the Flak-barracks, and then from 1951 they stayed in the Reese-barracks as well. The about 400 members of the IP in Augsburg had to guard all military buildings from the ammunition camp in Haunstetten to the supply depot at the Ackermannstraße, but also leisure-time activities like the Apollo Club at the Moritzplatz or the PX-stores<sup>18</sup>. Later on, around 1950, the IP was reorganized and then called Labour Service Units (LSU). It still consisted of German civilians and they worked for the US army. But they had more tasks then and the payment was even better, around 180-500 DM. Their profession was either a truck driver, an airplane mechanic, an office worker, or a guardian and they lived in community housings. They still had to wear uniforms and lived in barracks, which gave the LSU an ambiguous character, on the one hand they were civilian

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<sup>17</sup> cf. Augsburgs wilde Jahre-16. Folge, 'Augsburg in den ersten Nachkriegsmonaten, Amerikaner schlugen und beschützten Polizeibeamte', in Schwäbische Neue Presse (SNP), no. 6 (6.06.1969), 11

<sup>18</sup> cf. Lichtenstern, C., 'Zivile Soldaten: Industrie-Polizei der US Army', in AZ (08.04.1997), n.p.

workers for the US army but on the other hand they were still armed, lived in barracks and had to wear uniforms. But they were a civilian organisations with instruction given by the military, and its employees with the grey-blue uniforms were citizens of the federal Republic of Germany. The working contract was still the same as the one of the IP with a termination of 14 days and the US military had no personal liability in case of an accident or sickness. Even if this organisation was very controversial, it also ment a job for many people, especially for former soldiers. The ones who were employed by the US army had a place to sleep, some money and something to eat, too. The US army saved those people, especially the young ones from becoming scruffy and they were educated by the US military as well. In return they had to serve the US troops with the surveillance of their institutions<sup>19</sup>.

Even if the security issue was important for the civilian population, they had to deal with a lot of more problems after the war ended. One of the major problems was the housing situation. Many buildings were destroyed by the bombings, like the city hall and the Perlachturm, which were the buildings Augsburg was identified with, but a lot of industries and factories had been bombed, too. This meant a loss in the production of many daily needed items and a high unemployment rate. But one of the worst losses of buildings was probably the destruction of living space. About 85.000 people were homeless, which was about 40 % of the population of Augsburg. Besides the huge destruction of houses, the US army also took up some houses for their own needs, because the US soldiers needed a place to sleep, too, and the barracks did not have enough room for all members of the US army, and for civilians, who just came home from serving in the war, as much as for refugees and so-called "Displaced-Persons". Those were people who had special rights, because they had been expelled of Germany and were taken back in by the allied powers. Overall, it was a loss of about 38.000 appartments in Augsburg after 1945. In Mai 1945, the US military started with the occupation of living space, and at first it was only buildings which belonged to the National Socialist Party and to their former members. Due to the non-fraternisation issue, whole houses and even whole parts of the town had to be occupied, which lead to the existence of the "Housing Areas", that were located at the Donauwörther Straße, Bärenkeller, in Westheim, in Stadtbergen, in Göggingen, and near the barracks. They were build like a small town in a town with their own infrastructure, churches, schools, shops, clubs, and gas stations. After the invasion of Augsburg, there were only GIs in the city, at first. But the US military government decided to send for the families of these GIs, too. This had many reasons. The US military government planed to stay about five years in Augsburg, which was quite a long time. One of the reasons, why the

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<sup>19</sup> ‚Zwitter-Organisation, Labour Service oder der Mann in Graublau‘, in Schwäbische Landeszeitung (SLZ) (31.07.1952), n.p.

American families were united again, was the reduction of the doublebenefits those families received from the German and the American government. But more important was raising the general morals, since a lot of criminal offences had been occurred lately, such as blackmarket-activities, sexual promiscuity, venereal diseases, and non-official children between German women and US soldiers. Another reason was reeducational: Americans should serve as an example of democratic-minded families. This and the change of the relationship towards the Americans, which was a friendlier one since 1950, lead to the decision made by the US military government to build even more apartments for American families and the Housing Areas emerged. First it was just Centerville, located at the Reesekaserne in Kriegshaber, with 28 apartments, a school, and a chapel, then 1945 Cramerton, wich was next to Centerville, with 45 apartmenthouses, Sullivan Heights, located in Pfersee, with 18 apartmenthouses, that had three floors each, and also Fryar Circle, located in Leitershofen. Fryar Circle consisted of 9 detached houses, which were built for high-ranking officers, 74 duplexes for officers, and 2 apartmenthouses. Altogether 1880 apartments had been built for American soldiers. Those housing estates reflected the American way of life. The bigger apartments had an area of 80 to 115 qm in apartmenthouses, and an area of 135 to 223 qm in duplexes. This was a lot of space for a family and most of the Geman families did not have this much space and some Germans even became jealous of the Americans for having such big apartments. But the area of the apartments was not the onliest thing that differed from German apartments. The inside of an Ameican apartment was not as limited as the inside of an German apartment. The living room, the kitchen, and the dining room did not have doors and walls which seperated them from one another. American apartments normally did not have a hall and when walking inside of the apartment you were already in the living room. Most of the appartments already had furniture in it and they included a water heater, central heating, and a refrigerator, which was not small, either. Besides the appartments, the Housing Areas also consisted of huge areas of lawn and of playinggrounds between the houses, that were not fenced in, and almost every house had its own barbecue in the front<sup>20</sup>. Broad roads ran along the housing estates, and the vehicles, which belonged to almost every American familiy, could be parked in front of the house underneath a carport, that was typical for Americans, too. Different carports existed and they reflected the hierachy of the soldiers living in this housing estate: open carports for the officials living in the duplexes, garages with walls and a roof for majors and the three generals<sup>21</sup>. The Housing Areas were built like a small community with own systems of energy and water supply, own sewerage systems, with American High

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<sup>20</sup> cf. Amerika in Augsburg: 1945-2005, Reeducation & Rock'n'Roll, 2 ff.

<sup>21</sup> cf. Bachmair, A., 'Wohnen nach amerikanischer Art, Die US-Streitkräfte hinterlassen vier Wohngebiete mit Mehr- und Einfamilienhäuser', in AZ (18.03.1997), n.p.

Schools, churches, kindergardens, hospitals, leisure centers, movie theaters, sports centers, shopping centers, and even an own fire department, that was only in charge of American appartments and US military barracks. The US military government also made sure that they had gas stations and garages for American cars where Americans could pay with dollars and on the streets and the American traffic regulations were appllied in the Housing Areas.

The Augsburger High School opened in September 1955 for the first time. At the beginning it only included children of US soldiers, who were stationed in the Fuggerstadt. Therefor the first graduating class consisted of only 15 pupils. But later on this High School became one of the biggest High Schools outside the USA and German kids visited it as well<sup>22</sup>.

The American shops were called PX (post exchange), and Augsburg had a PX, too. There existed 169 PX shops in the world. The one in Augsburg was opened after the invasion of Augsburg by the US military and there was one in each city which had been occupied by the US military. The PX in Augsburg was at the Ackermannstraße. It was a five storage house with a brown sign, which said that this was the place where US soldiers and their families could buy the same things they could buy in shops in the USA. Every PX had the same products and they were all organized by the head office located in Dallas, Texas. When one product was running out, the store manager had to reorder this product per computer in Dallas and it took about four weeks for the item to get to Augsburg. Only US soldiers and their relatives were allowed to shop in this store and they had to show an ID at the register, which prevented Germans from shopping there. Every PX also had the same prices on their products. It was a lot cheaper than the German shops were because the Augsburg PX bought their products directly from the factories and no taxes were raised on those products. For example, a high-fi sytem costed 2.500 \$ in the PX and in a German store it costed 8.000 DM. This was a difference of about 3.000 DM. The Americans could buy everything in a PX, from food to footballs, and also clothes or greeting cards, as well as German souvenirs like a T-shirt with the castle of Neuschwanstein printed on it. Each soldier was allowed to buy two bars of cigarettes and four litres of hard liquors, and both was a lot cheaper than it was in German shops. The rationing of cigarettes and alcohol was meant to ban the illegal selling of those goods on to the German civilian population. About 300 customers a day and this six days a week came to the PX and on Saturdays it could happen that 600 Americans came to buy their gods in the Augsburg PX store. It was a

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<sup>22</sup> cf. Holland, M., ‚Zurück bleibt nur ein Mosaik, Nach 43 Jahren schließt die High School‘, in AZ (21.10.1997), n.p.



very popular place for US soldiers stationed in Augsburg and their family to go shopping to<sup>23</sup>.

At the beginning of the US invasion of Augsburg, the Military Government did not allow the US soldiers to have any contact with the civilian population of Augsburg. But later on the US military employed civilians and then they loosened the Non-Fraternisation restrictions, but it was not until the year of 1953 that US soldiers were allowed to go out in civil clothes. US soldiers liked to go to German bars and clubs in their leisure-time. There they usually drank a lot of beer but also hard liquers like whiskey. Most of the barmen liked US soldiers as guests because they normally spent a lot of money on one evening. For Americans it was important to get used to the life they had to live in Germany, far away from their families, which led to homesickness in some cases. Besides the older, more experienced soldiers, younger ones were send to Gemany, too. They had more problems with conforming to the new way of life. This led to a lot of problems caused by American soldiers in Augsburg. Fightings between civilians and soldiers took place, a lot of civilian women were raped, and sometimes even murders occurred. In those cases the US soldiers, who committed the crimes, were called to a court and they got severe punishments for their crimes. More often it came to vandalism of bars or clubs by US soldiers. The military police, of course, wanted to stopp the attacks on the civilian population. They worked very close together with the police of Augsburg. For example, signs were set up infront of the bars, which warned the civilian population from attacks done by US soldiers, and the military police also gave out the phone numbers where they could be reached in case of a critical situation<sup>24</sup>. A law was passed, too, that forbade any barmen to give out alcohol to drunken people and strict controls were made by both the police of Augsburg and the military police. Another problem the military police fought against was the high number of prostitutes in the city of Augsburg. Especially on pay days, the days when US soldiers got their money, prostitutes from as far away as Salzburg came to Augsburg in order to get some money from the good-paid US soldiers. This was not only a moral problem but also lead to an increase of veneral disease infected women. Regular police raids in the city tried to eliminate the number of prostitutes<sup>25</sup>. Besides being interested in prostitutes, American soldiers were also interested in German girls. After the war, most men were still not at home or had died in the war, so there was a general lack of men in Germany. But US soldiers were seperated from their families, too. So both, the German women and the American soldiers wanted to get in touch with each other. German girls were pretty popular because it was said that they were good with

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<sup>23</sup> cf. Borowski, S., 'Turnschuhe, Bier und steuerfreie Zigareten, Im Kaufhaus „PX“ kommt alles aus den Staaten', in AZ, no. 189 (19.08.1997), n.p.

<sup>24</sup> cf. 'Wenn Amerikaner in Gaststätten einkehren', SLZ (29.11.1951), 6

<sup>25</sup> cf. Utzni, K., 'Razzien nach Dimen und Schwarzhändlern, US-Boys locken Frauen bis aus Salzburg an', in AZ, no. 142 (24.06.1997), 28

managing the household and they were interested in having a family. But it was not possible to get married at this time. The first marriage between a Augsburg woman and an American soldier was in April 1947, and even then the German-American couple had to undergo a difficult bureaucratic process. Even before that a lot of children were born, who had a German mother and an American father. In the first three years 486 of all children were half German and half American. On the one side, they became some support from their American father, like a care packet, but on the other side they were not always accepted by the German population<sup>26</sup>. This was just one side, the bad side of the occupation time of Augsburg by the US Garrison. As an excuse for these US soldiers, it can be said that it is not easy to deal with the consequences a war normally bears, and then having to start their new life in a different country made it even harder for those American soldiers to conform to the new situation.

The heads of the US Garrison was trying very hard to establish a good relationship between US soldiers and the civilian population of Augsburg. A committee for German-American issues had been found in order to come to a better understanding of US soldiers and German civilians. This committee was trying hard to make the US army part of the community in Augsburg, for example they organised sport competitions such as football games of different army divisions in the Rosenaustadion (1952), and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1952, there was a concert of an orchestra consisting of US soldiers in the Ludwigsbau in Augsburg. They played pieces from Beethoven, Mozart, Händel, as well as pieces from modern American composers like Roy Harris<sup>27</sup>. Besides the cultural events, and the sport competitions, the US army also opened up so-called US information centers, the German name was "Amerikahäuser". They were meant to foster the democratical education as much as the cultural exchange between Germans and Americans. They had a library, reading rooms, rooms where music, especially instruments, were played and besides this, discussions were held, lectures were given, and Germans could also attend an English course<sup>28</sup>. It was also very important for Americans to support and educate the German Youth, and therefore a German Youth Activity has been established and opened in the Schätzlerstraße on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1947<sup>29</sup>. In this clubs the youth could visit the library or join different groups, which did a lot of activities with those young people. For example they, did needlework, discussed different problems, that occurred especially young people, and they also did physical activities. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1947 the US army organised the first Augsburg soap box derby in the Rosenaustraße. The army donated the material for the teenagers to

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<sup>26</sup> cf. ‚Amerikaner Nachwuchs in Augsburg, 486 Nachkömmlinge der Besatzungsmacht – und wie verhalten sich die Väter?‘, in SLZ, no. 35 (23.03.1949), 9

<sup>27</sup> cf. ‚US-Büro für zivile Angelegenheiten, Gründung eines beratenden Ausschusses geplant‘, in SLZ, no.166 (22.07.1952), 8

<sup>28</sup> cf. ‚Vom Gestapo-Hauptquartier zum Amerikahaus‘, in SLZ, no. 110 (3.12.1948), 15

<sup>29</sup> cf. ‚GYA-Club wurde eingeweiht‘, in SLZ, no. 50 (24.06.1947), 6

build their soap boxes and they also constructed the track. The winner got an American bike and a cardboard box of chocolate with nuts in it<sup>30</sup>. Another thing the GYA did was to allow children from Berlin to stay with American families as their vacation trip. Some of them stayed with American families in Augsburg. American women had a great time with the children from Berlin and they spoiled them a lot with food, clothes, and candies. The kids from Berlin liked it, too. Since most of them came from a poor background, they enjoyed the rich American way of life, where they received a lot to eat and they could stay in rather big houses. In order for a good understanding, most American families employed a nanny from Berlin during the time where the children from Berlin stayed at their houses<sup>31</sup>. The US army in Augsburg did a lot of charity work as well. An American women's club had been founded. Those women were very committed and they donated money and clothing to poor families, especially during Christmas time. US soldiers also collected some money to buy presents for orphanages. This was called Christmas campaign for poor kids. Whole groups of orphans were invited to the barracks, where they received a rich meal and some presents afterwards. But in some cases, the US soldiers went to the orphanages, sometimes by helicopter, in order to occupy it for one day and then throw a Christmas party there. They sang Christmas songs and played the Christmas story in German for the children<sup>32</sup>. In return, families living in Augsburg invited young American soldiers to spend the Christmas evening with them. In 1951 over 350 US soldiers celebrated Christmas with Augsburg families. The soldiers were glad that they did not have to spend Christmas in a bar or in their barracks, since their families were back home in the USA. For them, it was a totally different experience to spend their Christmas in Germany<sup>33</sup>.

This were just some examples of what the US military established in Augsburg. There are a lot of more things the population of Augsburg could profit from the time during which the US Garrison stayed in Augsburg. For example, Americans persuaded the administration of Augsburg to build new playgrounds for American and German children, where they could get in contact with each other by playing together. American families collected money with which they bought swings and other tools to play with, and the place, where the playground was built, had to be decided by the city council<sup>34</sup>. Therefore, a friendship between Americans and Germans could be established in Augsburg in many ways. The relationship has changed from a formal one to a more

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<sup>30</sup> cf. Holland, M., 'Seifenkisten aus Flugzeugtanks, Amerikaner organisierten die ersten Rennen in Augsburg', in AZ, no. 219 (23.09.1997), 26

<sup>31</sup> cf. 'Die Buben von der Spree spielen als Cowboys am Lech, Berliner Kinder erleben ihre Ferien bei amerikanischen Familien in Augsburg', in SLZ, no. 166 (22.07.1954), n.p.

<sup>32</sup> cf. 'Weihnachtsmann kommt im Hubschrauber, US-Soldaten beschenken Waisenkinder – Ständchen mit Kaffee und Kuchen', in SLZ, no. 292 (17.12.1954), n.p.

<sup>33</sup> cf. '350 Soldaten in deutschen Familien', in SLZ, no. 206 (31.12.1951), 14

<sup>34</sup> cf. 'Amerikanisch-deutsche Kinderspielplätze', in SLZ (26.09.1952), 15

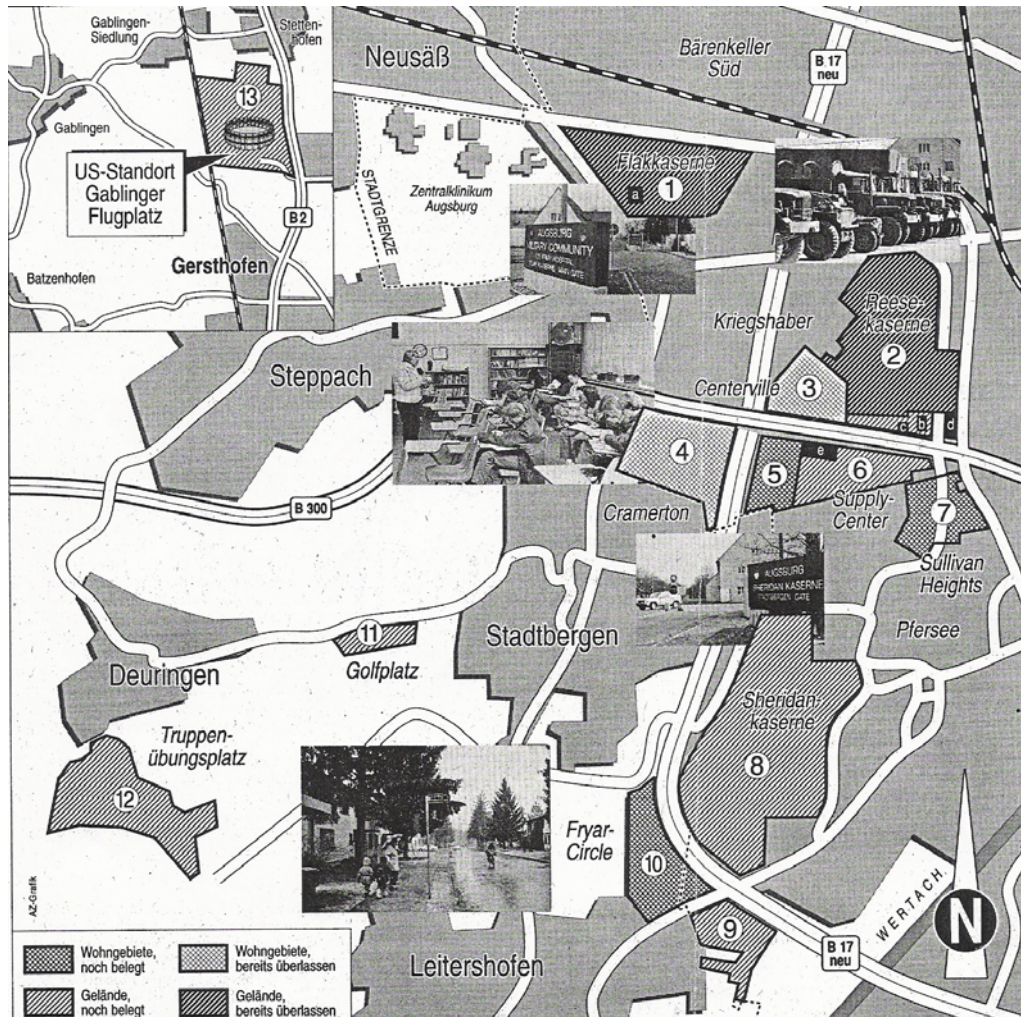
friendlier one over the first ten years. Since the US Garrison did not leave completely until the year of 1998, there are a lot of more aspects about the German-American relationship in Augsburg and the first ten years were only the beginning of a developing friendship between the US citizens stationed in Augsburg and the Augsburg civilian population.

### **Conclusion**

Due to my limited space and the given time frame, it is not possible for me to show all different facets of the time the US Garrison stayed in Augsburg after the Second World War. I still hope, though, that this work gives the reader a good overview of the situation in Augsburg after the war, and that it is detailed enough to understand the main aims and the system of the American Military Government, that had been established in the whole American occupied section of Germany, as well as the situation with which the American soldiers and the civilian population had to deal with in Augsburg. An organisation, called "Amerika in Augsburg", has been established in 2005 because the US invasion of Augsburg had been 60 years ago. This organisation is interested in documenting the history of the 50-year presence of the US Garrison in Augsburg. They staged the exhibition "Re-education and Rock'n'Roll" in the Kulturhaus Abraxas, which dealt with the German-American relationship that had been established after World War II. This organisation focuses on personal experiences of Germans and Americans as well as on the influence the "American Way of Life" had on Augsburg and its inhabitants. It is very important to preserve the memories of this time and to keep them for the next generation not only because of a better understanding of the former situation but also because the achievements made by the US army, their dependents and the citizens of Augsburg have to be remembered.

## Appendix

### 1. Map of the areas occupied by the US military:



source: Bachmeier, Uli, „Die US-Armee zieht ab: Ende einer Epoche, Was ist die Hinterlassenschaft für Augsburg? – Wie sind die riesigen Flächen beschaffen?“, in Augsburgischer Zeitung, no. 44 (22.02.1977), n.p.

The areas that were occupied by the US Garrison consisted of:

- (1) Flak-barracks with a hospital (a), (2) Reese-barracks with a High School (b), a gasstation and a radio antenna (c) and the festival ground (d), (3) Centerville-nord, (4) Cramerton, (5) Centerville-south, (6) Supply-Center with a shopping center (e), (7) Sullivan-Heights, (8) Sheridan-barracks, (9) Vehicle-park, (10) Fryar-Circle, (11) golf course, (12) place for troop exercises, (13) intercept station in Gablingen.

2. picture of American soldiers on the day of the US invasion in Augsburg



source: Utzni, Klaus, ‚Nach dem Einmarsch herrschte das Chaos, US-Truppen entwaffneten auch Polizisten‘, in Augsburgischer Zeitung, no. 46 (25.02.1997), n.p.

This picture was taken on the 28th of April 1945 at 7.30 am, when the US-troops went into the city of Augsburg for the first time, by Leni Lechner from the window of her parent’s shop.

3. Picture of an American home in Fryar-Circle



source: Bachmair, Angela, ‚Wohnen nach amerikanischer Art, Die US-Streitkräfte hinterlassen vier Wohngebiete mit Mehr- und Einfamilienhäuser, in Augsburgischer Zeitung (18.03.1997), n.p.

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AZ = Augsburger Zeitung

SLZ = Schwäbische Landeszeitung

SNP = Schwäbische Neue Presse



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**Declaration of the author**

I, Melanie Förschner, solemnly declare, that I wrote this research paper without any outside help and that I only used the sources and books mentioned in the bibliography.

(Ich, Melanie Förschner, erkläre hiermit, dass ich die Facharbeit ohne fremde Hilfe angefertigt und nur die im Literaturverzeichnis angeführten Quellen und Hilfsmittel benützt habe.)

Königsbrunn, den 25. Januar 2006

**Melanie Förschner**