



TO ALL ASA COMM UNIT VETS

KENNEDY KASERNE



Kennedy Kaserne - Front Entrance (H. Beatty Collection)

ASA Comm Unit started its relocation from Gutleut Kaserne to its new quarters around 27 Jun 64. The new building was located on the corner of Eschenheimer Landstrasse and Bremer Strasse. The building was just blocks away from the I. G. Farben Building and was close enough to walk to the Dachsbau Comm Center. It was constructed as part of a package deal between the army and the host nation (Germany) to vacate the 21st Replacement Battalion.

The 21st Repo Depot was located midway on a side street off Eshenheimer Landstrasse called Cronstetten Strasse. The building adjoining it was a girls nursing school which faced our new building. The military determined that the 21st Repo could perform its mission better being closer to the Bahnhof, and ASA would be better off closer to the Farben building and Comm Center. If you remember your arrival by train from Bremerhaven, you stood at the Bahnhof waiting for a deuce-and-a-half to take you to the 21st. In reality, you could have walked around the corner and been at your new home at Gutleut Kaserne.

There was an acre of unused land at the corner of Eschenheimer where the German government offered to build Kennedy Kaserne if they could get the building that housed the 21st Repo. Construction started in 1963 and was ready for occupancy in June of 1964. Per Lanny Reese's letter to his parents, the move was scheduled to start 27 Jun 64. As I have said in many emails to all of you, I don't ever remember calling our new barracks "the Kennedy Kaserne." However, most information on the web after 1966 does call it Kennedy.

The logistics of the move must have been enormous. Moving just our Comm Unit contingent involved several hundred foot and wall lockers and contents, cots, mattresses, etc, The Supply Room, Armory, Mail Room, and maintenance equipment also had to be moved. Tom Vanderhoof recalls Sgt. Harwell putting blankets in the elevators so they wouldn't get scratched. I can barely remember that we had elevators!

What I do remember were the water fountains built for midgets. They were so low you really had to bend over to get a drink. The rooms were much larger than the eight man rooms we had at Gutleut. They were more on the lines of dorm rooms. The larger number of guys to a room made it more difficult to sleep as it seems someone was always going out or coming into the room. And THEN the subway construction started. If it was difficult to sleep before, try sleeping to the tune of pile drivers doing their work. The poor guys coming off mids would have been better off taking a sleeping bag to the park and trying to sleep.



Frankfurt subway construction (T. Hogan Collection)



Frankfurt Subway Construction (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Frankfurt Subway Construction (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)

The Girls' School



Girl's school across from Kennedy Kaserne (T. Hogan Collection)

Fred — As I remember, the building actually housed a nursing school and had a lot of attractive and inquisitive young ladies.

Tom Vanderhoof - The Headmistress of the school complained that we were not closing the curtains and were giving the girls a free show. Hey they were watching, and is that where the binocular story came from?? In the end the 21st Repo Depo moved from Gutleut Kaserne to Rhine/Main Air Base and I have no idea where they are today.

Austin Adams - The view of the girls' school was the best view by far. After all we didn't have a TV, what did they expect? It was like looking into a candy store. Seems our commander or 1st Sgt put a stop to our nightly entertainment, or at least they tried.

Skeets Parobek - On the last photo of the building across from the break room, I will always remember towards evening all of the lights would go out and everyone had a pair of binoculars. I swear the building actually leaned to one side at night. The PX could not keep binoculars in stock.

Fred — I bought a pair of binoculars (for bird watching, of course) from a guy returning to the states. They were so big you had to have them on a tripod in order to hold them steady. I left them with Tom Vanderhoof when I went on my European Separation trip. It was to help him sleep better at night. I'm told he always had a smile on his face while asleep.

In November of 1964, ASA Comm Unit Frankfurt celebrated its first anniversary with a cake cutting ceremony in the main lobby of Kennedy Kaserne. And here is the surprise photo I mentioned many articles ago. It shows 1st SGT William M. Harwell and Capt. Werner C. Phillipson cutting the ASA anniversary cake. By the way, Sgt. Harwell passed away in 1996 in Angleton, Texas at age 77.



Also in the photo are SSGT Eddie Burks, Richard Eller, Chuck Clarke, and ???

ASA finalized its move from Frankfurt to Augsburg in 1972. The Kennedy Kaserne was officially turned over to the German government in June, 1995. It's one acre was noted as the smallest parcel ever returned to the host government. Awhile back someone mentioned that it had been used as Senior Citizen housing after that. The building has since been demolished. If you remember seeing Tom Vanderhoof's picture from his October trip to Europe, the curb cut was all that remained at the Kennedy site.

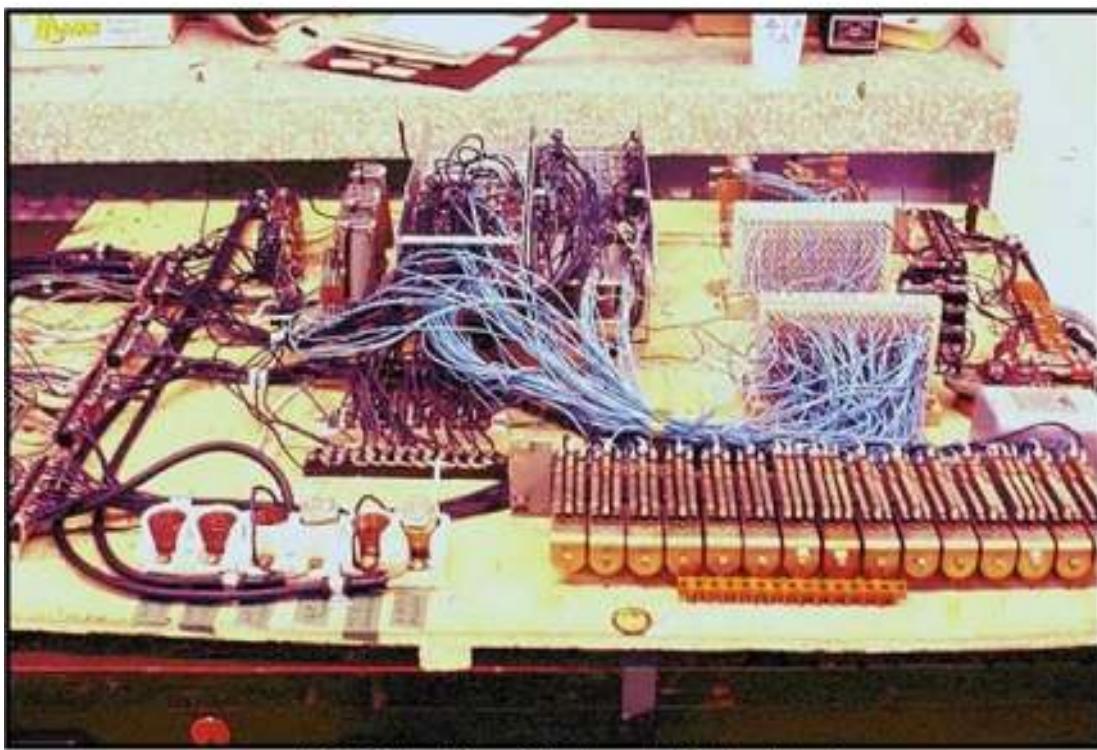
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

Stan Stryjewski - I looked in most of the files of pictures I have. All I can find are the two pictures I sent before... I wish I had more. ...A lot of Guys did help put up "Igor" as we called it. I would like to have some more pictures of that project. Maybe someone has some? Could have not got that display done with out the Help from the Troops that got involved in that project. Except for a few of us. The guys living in the barracks

were the ones that made "Igor" come to life. It had about 7000 feet of wire. A couple of thousand light bulbs. Many had to be painted by hand.. At least the red & green ones. Climbing around on the roof took a little Courage. I made sure whoever was up there was tied up with a safety line we strung between the Elevator and something else? God it was cold in Germany in those days... Have fun with your project.



Kennedy Kaserne - Stan Stryjewski's 1964 Christmas Tree



"IGOR" (Stan Stryjewski Collection)



New barracks, under construction - February 25, 1964
(Bob Binn Collection)



Kennedy Kaserne - Front Entrance (H. Beatty Collection)



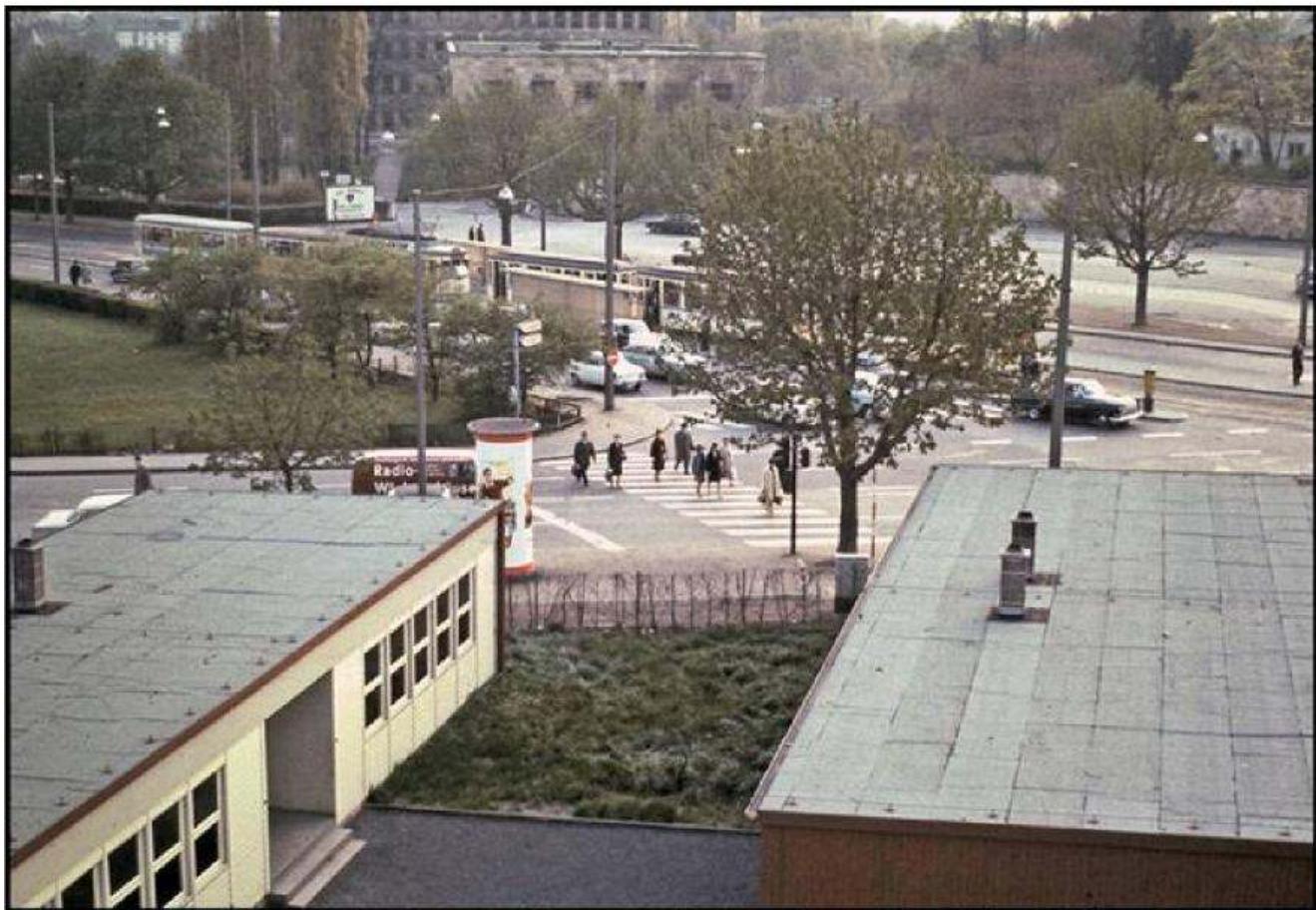
Kennedy Kaserne from Hansallee (D. Butler Collection)



Kennedy Kaserne (rear view) (H. Beatty Collection)



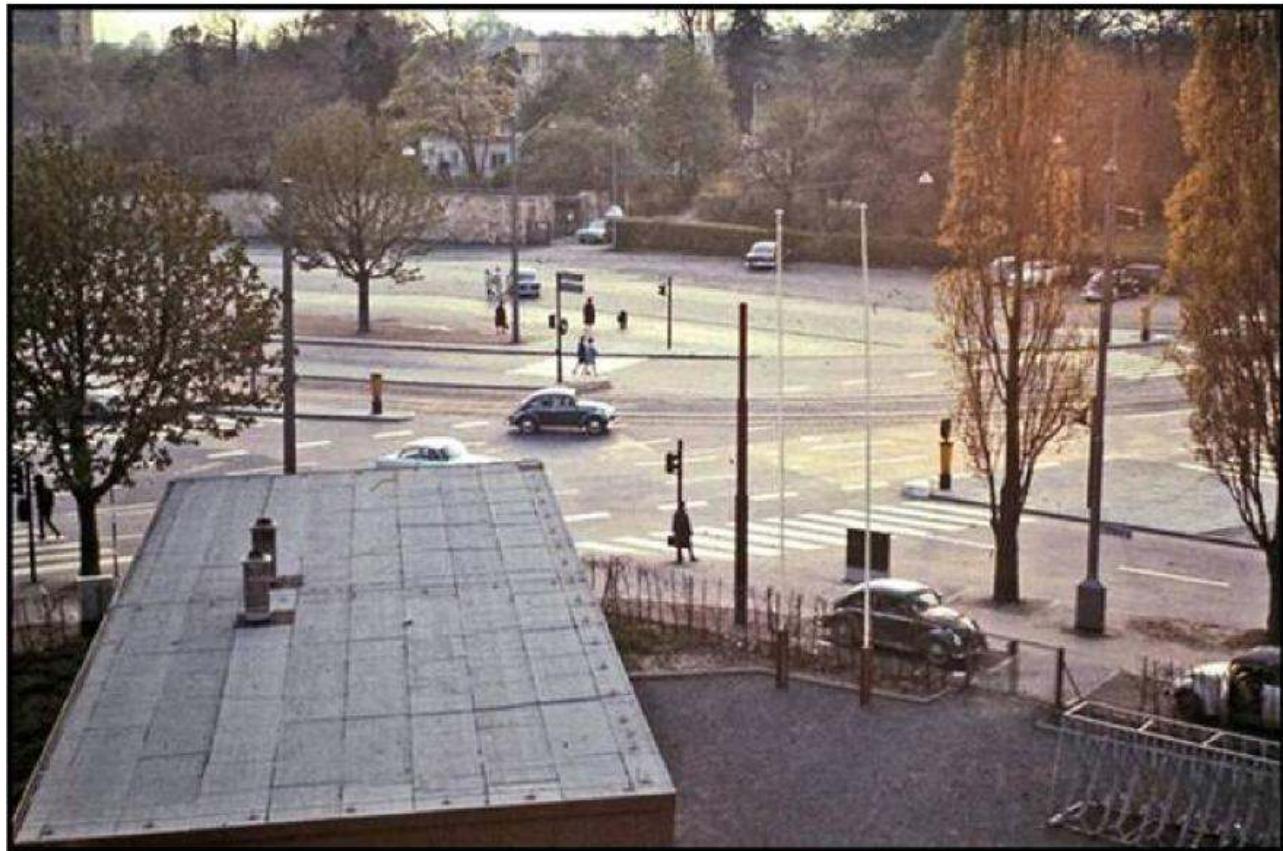
Kennedy Kaserne - Front Gate
(Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



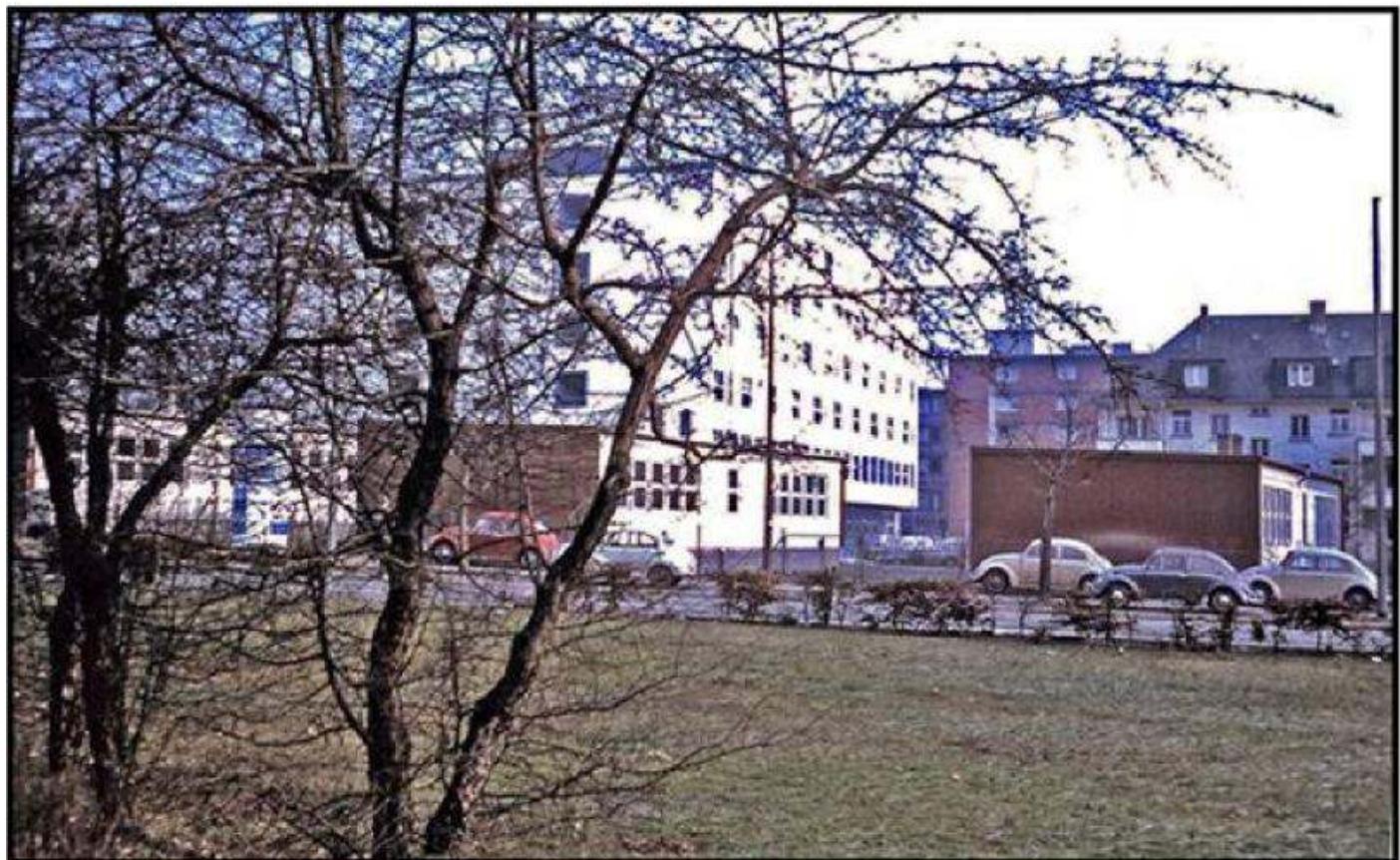
Kindergarten from Kennedy Kaserne window (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Kennedy Kaserne - View from Back (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Kindergarten from Kennedy Kaserne window (Tom Vanderhoof collection)



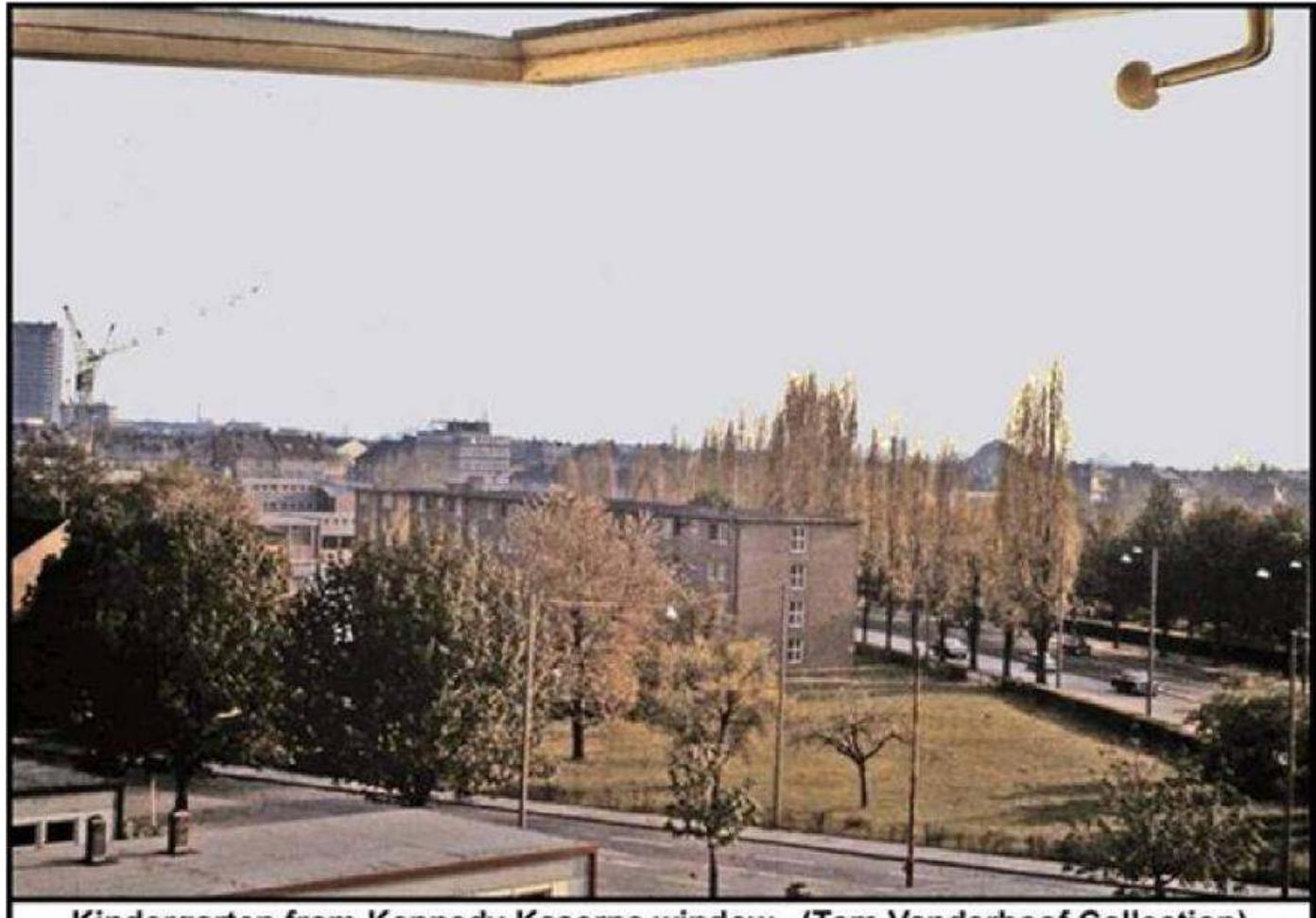
Kennedy Kaserne from I.G. Farben lawn (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Kennedy Kaserne from Hansallee (D. Butler Collection)



Kindergarten from Kennedy Kaserne window (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Kindergarten from Kennedy Kaserne window (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)



Kindergarten from Kennedy Kaserne window (Tom Vanderhoof Collection)

Help keep the Comm Unit effort alive — send photos

 **Fred Gerstner** 