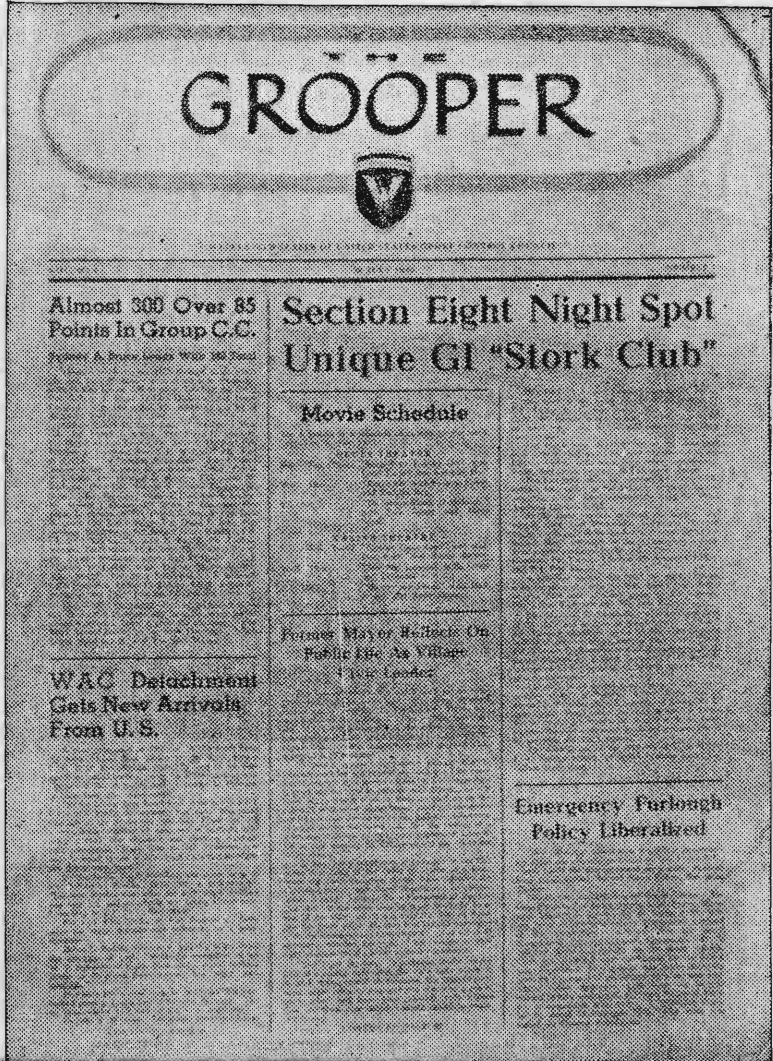


THE BERLIN OBSERVER

SECOND ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

JULY 1945...



The Observer's forerunner, "The Grooper", was a one sheet affair with Cpl. Claude Shokes as editor. After it moved to Berlin with its Headquarters, the Group Control Council (now known as OMGUS) it bravely expanded into a four page weekly. On its staff then as feature writer was Evelyn Belton, now Publicity Director for Berlin Special Services and one of the Berlin American Community's most popular members.

MARCH 1947...



In the halcyon days of 1946 the Observer had still plentiful stocks of captured art paper plus its own full time staff photographer, Henry Ries, who is now with the New York Times Bureau here in Germany. Making use of all these resources, the paper acquired a picture magazine character with its full page picture spreads and feature articles. The last Observer to have a full page cover picture (issue of March 14, 1947) featured the famous portrait of General Clay taken by the Signal Corps cameraman, Edward Oppman, soon after the General first arrived in Berlin.

A visitor recently entering the BERLIN OBSERVER offices and leafing through the bound copy of two years of the American Community paper, remarked, as though greatly surprised: "Why all the history of the US occupation of Berlin is here, in pictures as well as headlines."

Celebrating our second anniversary, July 28, we take time, in this issue, to look back and to hope that we have been successful in doing just this.

Events have moved fast, redeployment mixed things up, dependents poured into the city, commands changed, there were mergers and historical visitors came and went, our general became Commander-in-Chief, faithful backers went home and forgot all about us, new ones showed new interest, paper shortages and "stromsperre" were struggled with, the staff expanded and then shrank again, but the goal has always been the same.

The "Observer" started out with the Group Control Council in Hochst and was then called the "Grooper". Two weeks later it moved to Berlin with the headquarters. The hot news of that first hot summer was redeployment, billets and transportation. For excitement there was the reporting of raids in illegal clubs and breaking up black market activities.

Then the Group Control Council was redesignated Office of Military Government US and the paper changed its name to OMGUS OBSERVER.

Throughout this period redeployment was the paper's greatest struggle. Four editors came and went during the first 12 months and photographers changed with bewildering rapidity. New writers and reporters hardly had time to find their way around the sector before they were Zied. Emily Mikszto, a converted WAC who had been a feature writer with "Overseas Women" took over as editor, WAC Sgt. Viviane Adams, a well-known novelist and short story writer in civilian life, became managing editor, and Henry Ries, an ex-sergeant, was appointed photographer.

Heading for bigger and better things the "Observer" on May 1946 blossomed out with full front page pictures.

The "Observer's" mission developed steadily — keeping up with official activities and in no way neglecting local events and people. Witnessing and recording the changing scene in its own growing backyard it naturally had to expand its field. The American community transplanted into the heart of a Military Government outpost was made to feel more at home by seeing its name in print, its social activities and its little theater projects featured. The brides were not to be done out of their newspaper clippings for their memory books and the young mothers could blue pencil the item "a son was born to Lt. and Mrs. Jones" and send it home.

The behind the news story of the "Observer" is again another picture. A very different picture from that of the "hometown paper". Most of the staff has had to be given on the job training not only in newspaper work but in overcoming the language barrier when dealing with German drivers, German printers, German engravers.

And so, for two years now, each Friday dawn a new Observer is born.

Recently the Observer has had to take on additional community responsibilities and services. In March it absorbed the entertainment guide "What's Cooking" and now runs it as its center pages — supplying the American community of Berlin with the latest British, German and American entertainment information. The activities of the Women's Club, a teenagers column, and a gardeners guide were inaugurated making the Berlin Observer a real "hometown" paper in which names make news and people get to know each other and what is happening in their community.

APRIL 1946...



When Group Control Council changed its name the staff got weary of having to explain the name Grooper (no one knows why it was misspelled with two o's) to every newcomer. But no matter how the abbreviation OMGUS was turned and twisted, it refused to lend itself to any dignified title. So the homesick group chose the good old American newspaper name "Observer" and just added OMGUS to it.

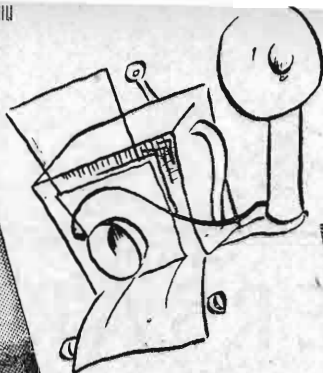
JULY 1947...



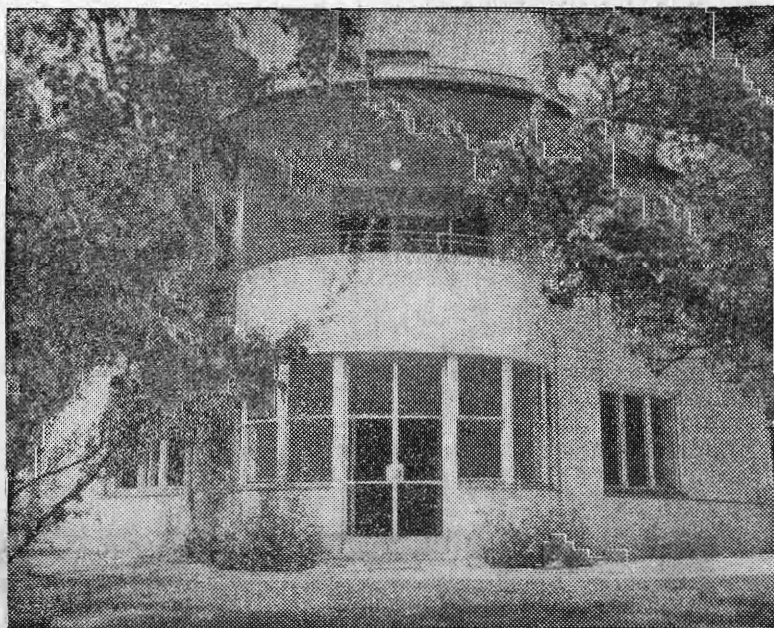
Last week's issue, No. 103. Art paper gone, nothing was left except to go on a rotary press using ordinary newsprint. This meant poorer reproduction and therefore fewer pictures. The addition of new regular features to accommodate its growing family-circle readers required that a different format be set up. The Berlin Observer's present head was designed by the well-known artist Henry Koerner.



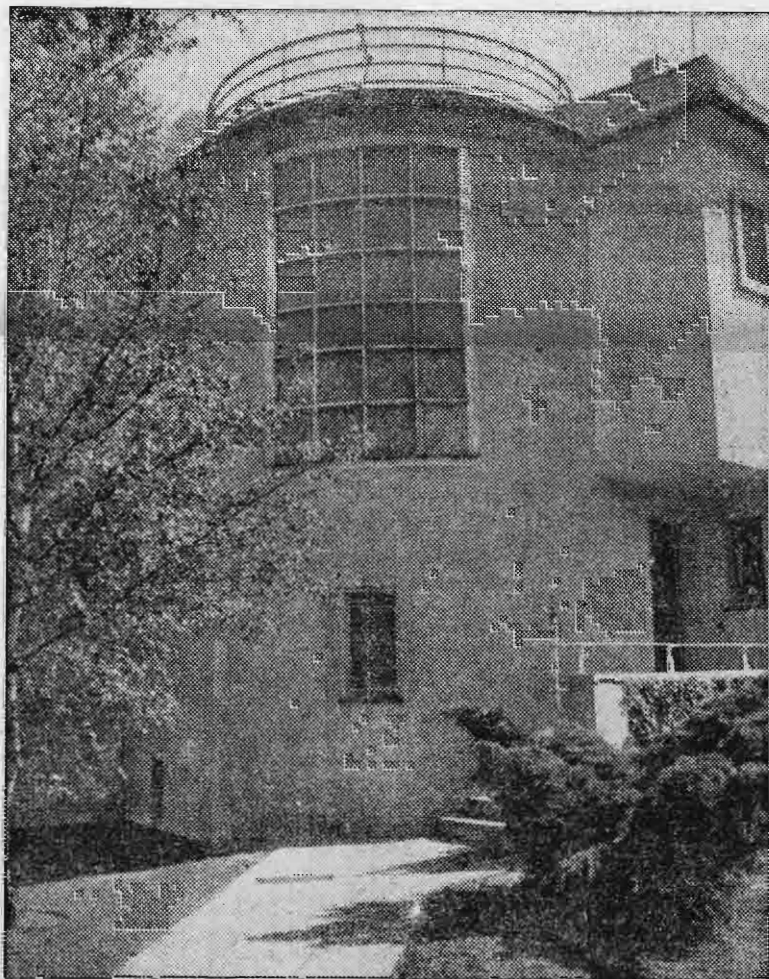
A layout conference in the Editor's office.



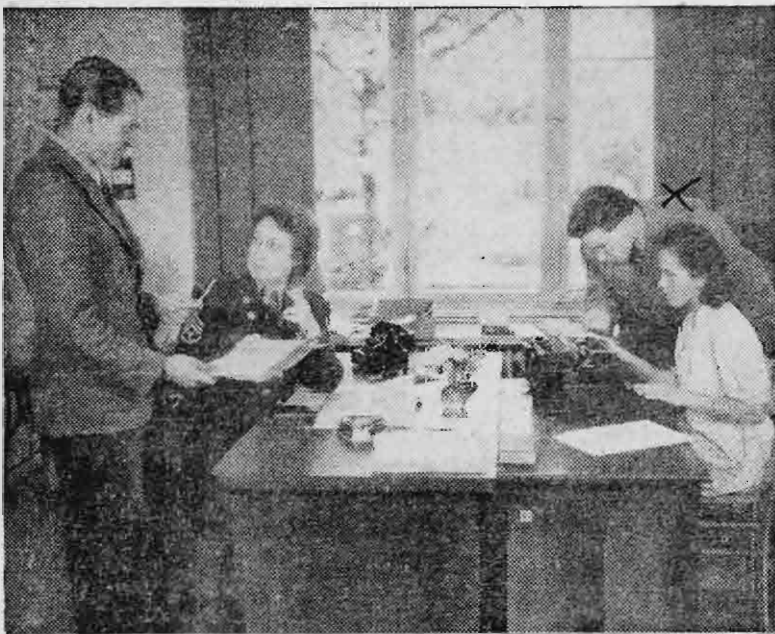
Jonnie's sharp side remarks (which couldn't see print) amuse Adams and Harry Reinert.



Fruit trees and Dixie's tomatoes flourish in the Observer's office garden.



This bombed out building on Biesalski Strasse was rehabilitated last summer to house the Observer office.



Dixie dispatches Hans Casdorf, the Observer jeep driver, while Horst Solbrig turns in the latest Opera schedules to be typed by Gertrud Stringe.



Photography by Byers



Harry Reinert, newcomer to the newsroom, chucked his clarinet at the 298th Band in favor of the typewriter and telephone. Wrote for a Arkansas daily and after the army, wants to study journalism from books.



"Good mawnin', Berlin Observuh, Sergeant Liske speakin'," says the good-natured voice of our "Dixie". From Colonel to Private, everybody is pleased with Dixie's honeyed Carolina drawl. But she's firm with the motor pool.



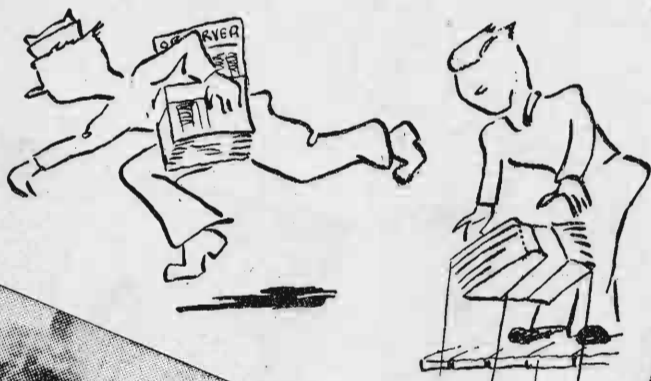
Dave Pinson, formerly with BC Athletic Office, now reports the world of sports for Observer readers. Game prognosticator, fight forecaster, ping-pong haranguer, hockey harbinger. He asks nothing more than to see a game and write it up.



Viviane Adams has been with the Observer longer than any of the staff (March '46). Shunning redeployment as a WAC sergeant, she civilianized recently to continue laying out the woman's page, writing features and amassing photo files.



Jack Bowley, Yank with an English rearing, is responsible for art and pictorial humor. When he's finished his cartoons, klischees and art work for the issue, he rushes breathlessly all day Friday to deliver the finished product.



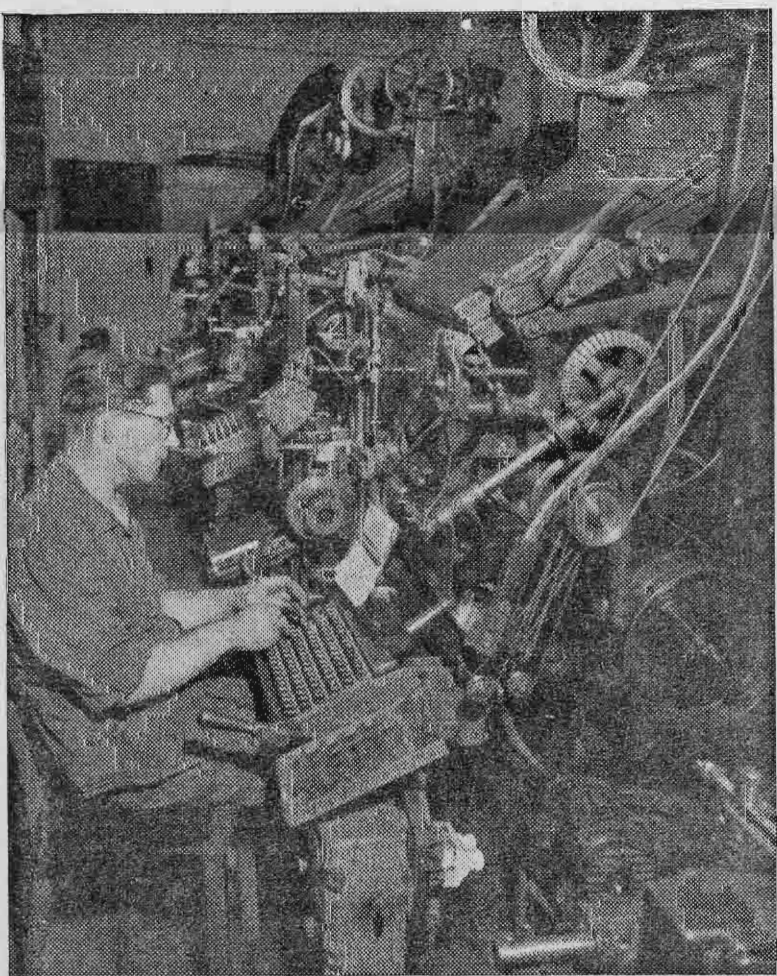
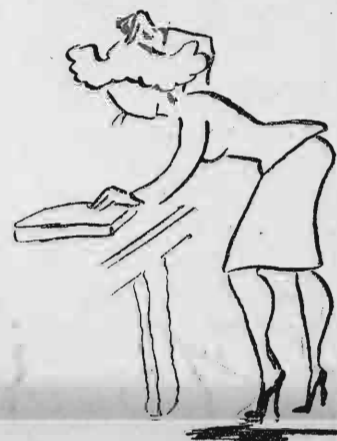
Harry Reinert consults Managing Editor Adams over a snag in headline writing.



German Pressman, Fritz Brandhorst, picks up the first Observers to roll off the press at 3 a.m. every Friday morning.



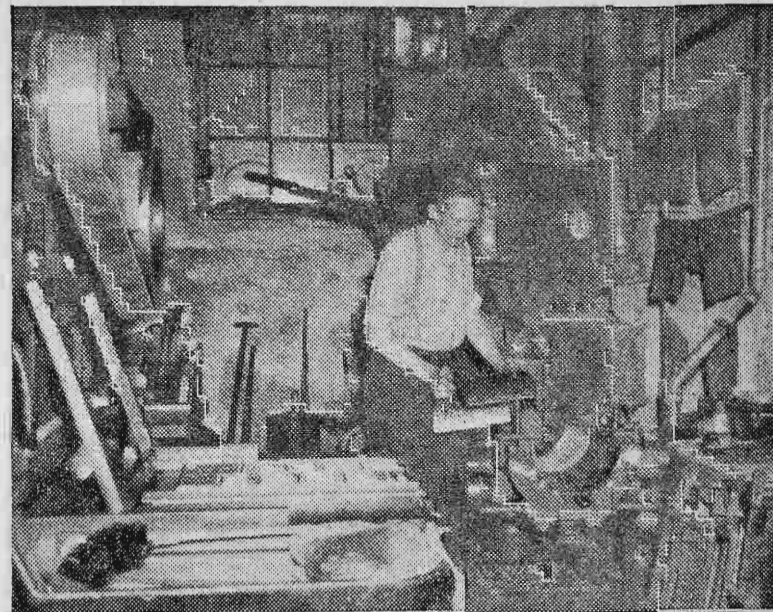
Setting the galleys with the aid of AG Printing Plant German employees. Sgt. Johnson with Hermann Dehn, Walter Weigel, Otto Brolat and Otto Mielecke.



German linotypist Wilhelm Fahrenholtz, at the arduous task of setting the English copy. These machines once turned out violent propaganda for the Nazi "Neukoellner Tageblatt".



Photography by Byers'



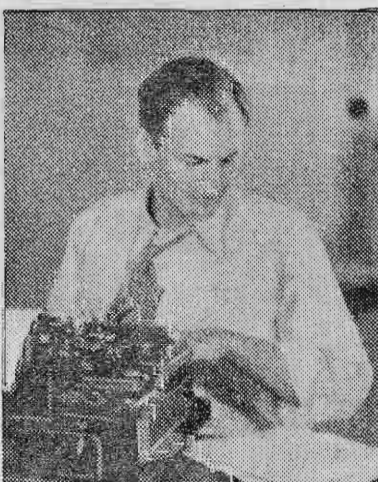
The stereotype is ready for the press. Karl Kuss lifts it from the mold.



Jim Barnett, our redheaded boss, hails from Georgia, suh! He doesn't chew gum nor smoke cigars like in the movies, but he has wielded a violent blue pencil since he took over as Editor in January.



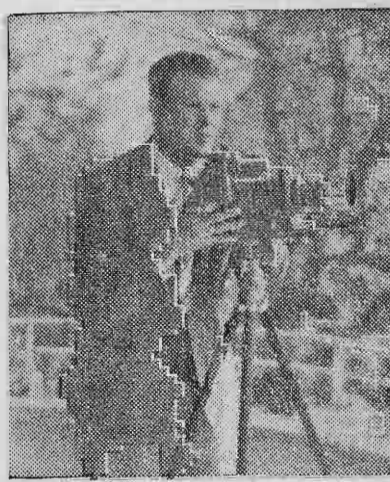
Jonnie Johnson, the second redhead in the office, checks on what the boys in the units are up and in to. Doesn't miss very much. She knows all the guys and they all know Jonnie.



Emmett Stegall, as the Observer's only father lends dignity and weight to the organization. Like Bernard Baruch, Emmett likes the healthful aspects of the outdoors, does much of his cogitation on a bike.



Sue Bevier and Sally Seitz, effervescent bobby soxer teen-team bound up the Observer stairs, every Wednesday with their weekly copy. Sometimes in shorts, sometimes in jodhpurs, but always on time.



Al Byers of PIO, Economics Division, is one of the top US photographers in Europe today. The Observer is lucky to have Al to call on when it needs something special in the way of pictures.

Here is a bird's-eye view of some of the main military installations served by the BERLIN OBSERVER. But it is no mere military house organ, rather a broadly-styled weekly publication to serve a community of more than 12,000 people engaged in the multilateral tasks of Military Government.

Berlin is the Capitol of the Occupation, seat of the dual office of the Commander-in-Chief and Military Governor and Office of Military Government for Berlin Sector. The US Sector is also the proud host to two famous quadripartite headquarters, the Allied Control Authority and the Allied Kommandatura.

In a strictly American sense, the AAF, Constabulary, Engineers, Infantry, MP, Ordnance, QM, Signal, Transportation and miscellaneous outfits in Berlin total no less than 58 separate units.

A numbers breakdown figures like this: 7,500 military; 2,300 US civilian employees; 2,200 dependents (representing 1200 families with 850 minor children). Even the NAAFI clubs find the comprehensive "What's Cooking" page popular among British personnel. That's a lot of reading tastes to satisfy!

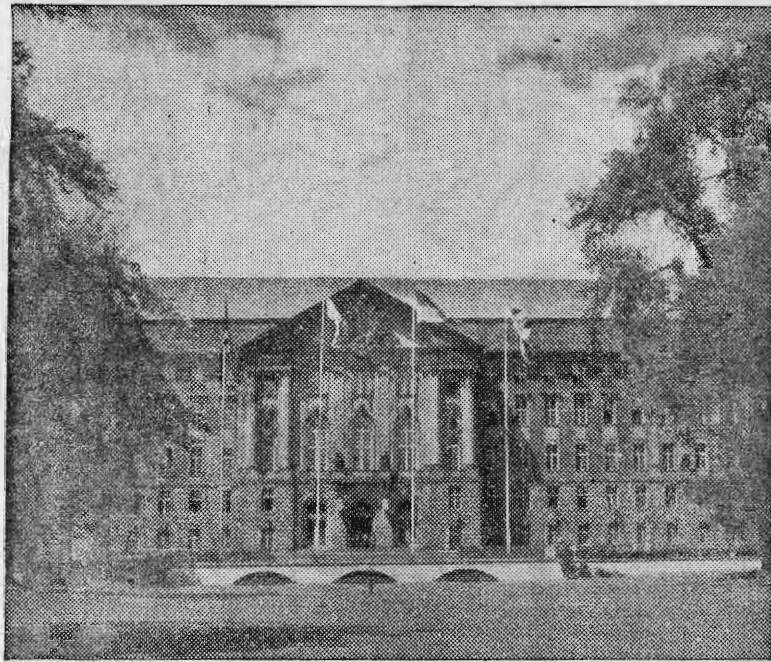
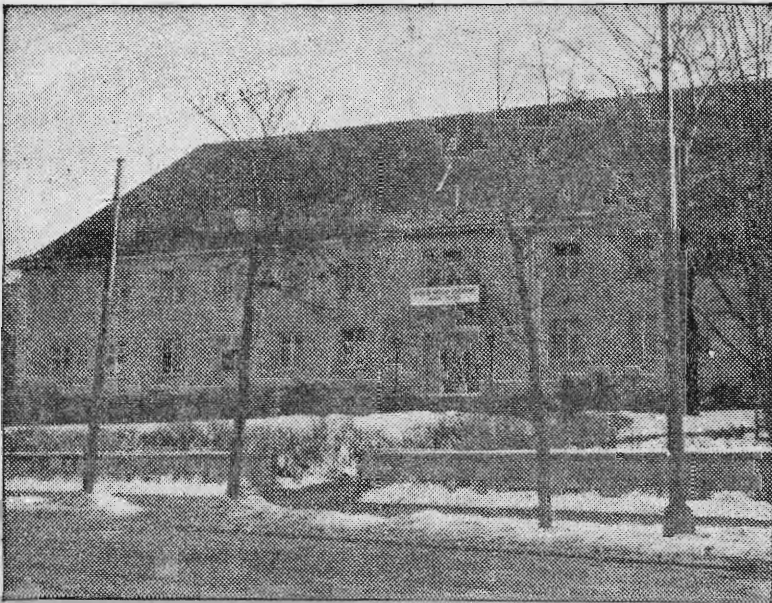
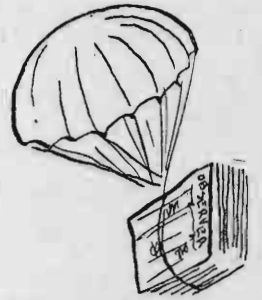
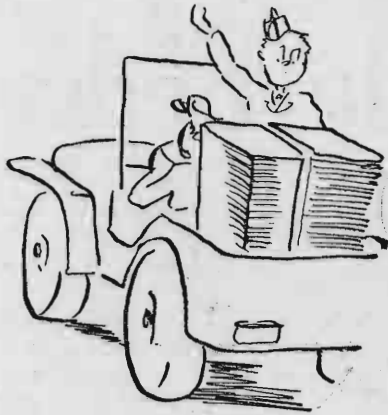
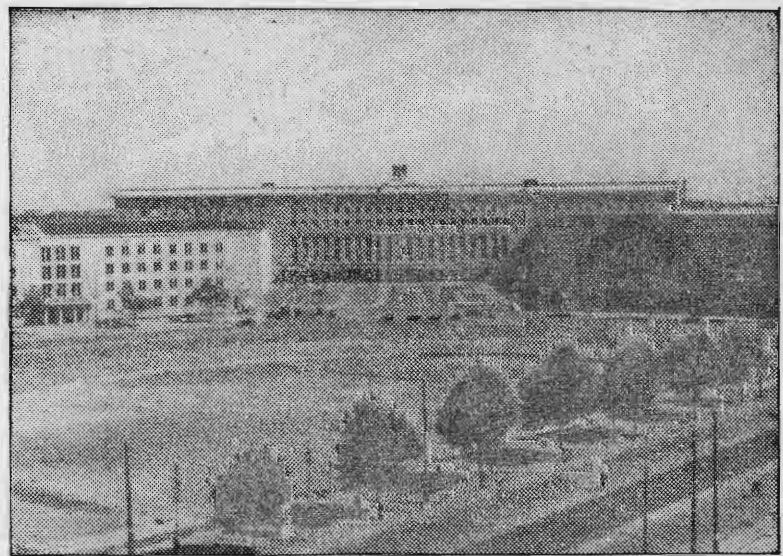


Photo by Byers
The Allied Control Authority building in the well kept Kleist Park is also situated in the US Sector and is one of the first stops for the boys distributing the Observer.



(Signal Corps Photo)

OMG, Berlin Sector, Headquarters, also gets its full share of Observers.



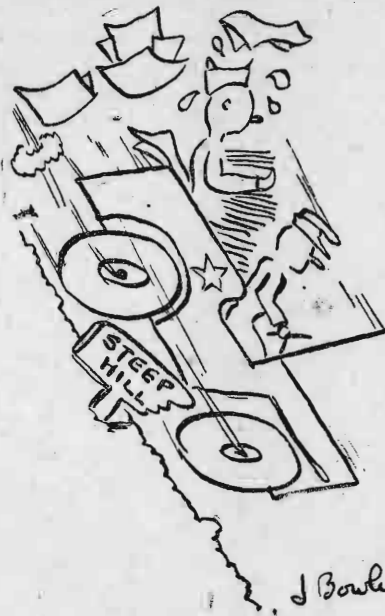
EATS Photo

One of the largest airfields in the world, Tempelhof Army Air Base, is run by four US Air Force units who are regular readers of the Observer.

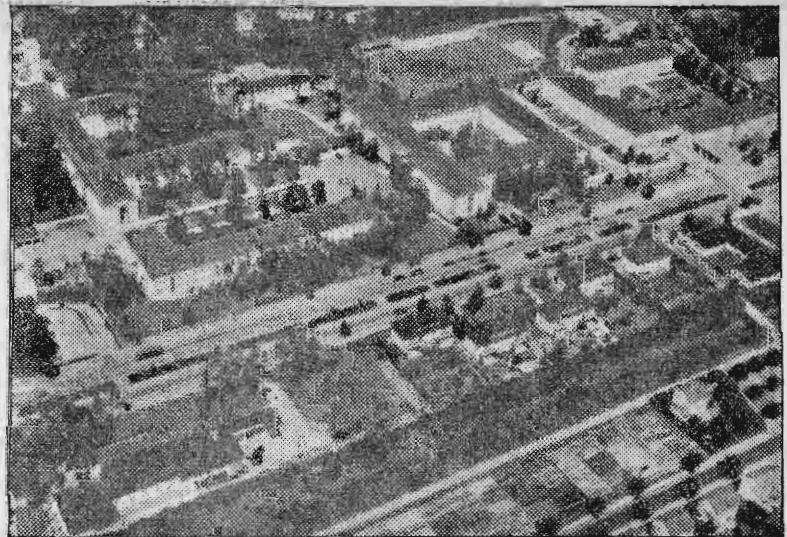
Teen-agers at school, housewives with their clubs and cookery, professional employees who make decisions on a high level, sportsmen and women who want the latest information on horseback riding, sailing, bowling, and troops and officers who want to know unit news or Congress' latest armed forces legislation — all these readers can find a little corner devoted to their special interests.

But more than that, the carefully selected local news tries to give a concise and lucid picture of the week's events.

The success of a community paper doesn't lie solely in its regular staff. Everyone contributes in some manner, whether they work in German Youth Activities, write party reviews, play the piano or just go on furlough, they help make the news and there is always someone who wants to read it.

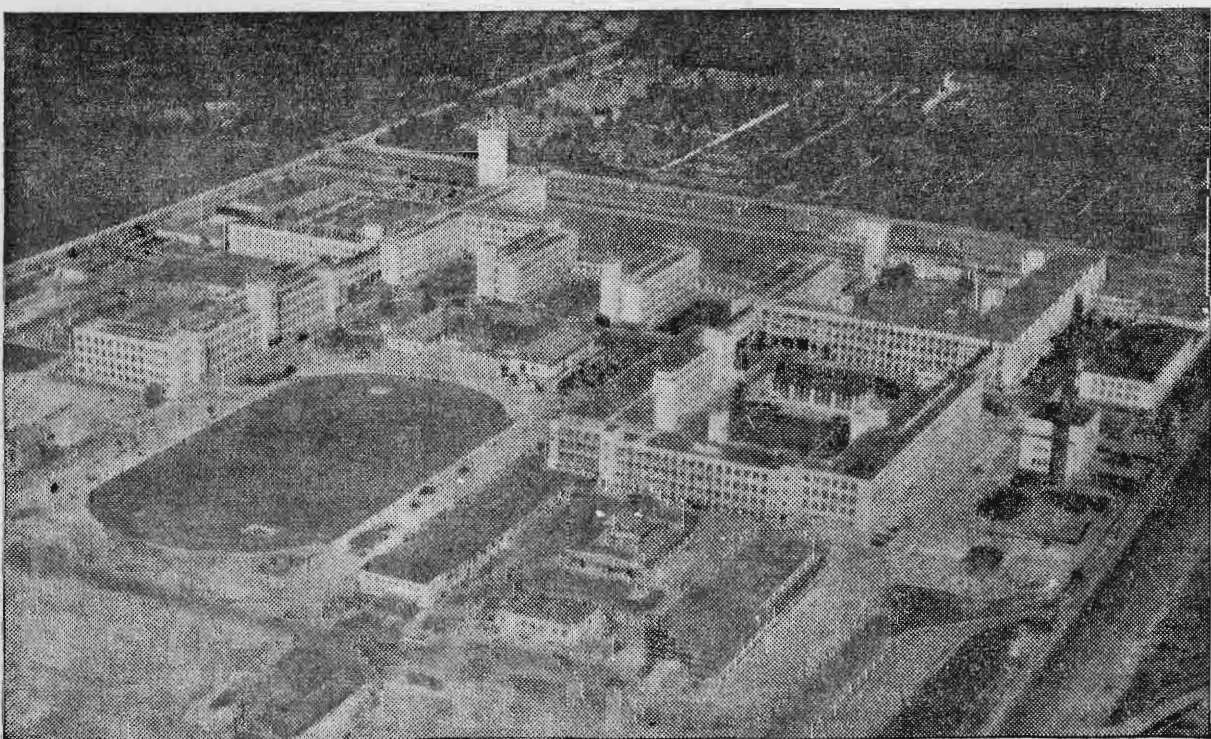


J. Bowley



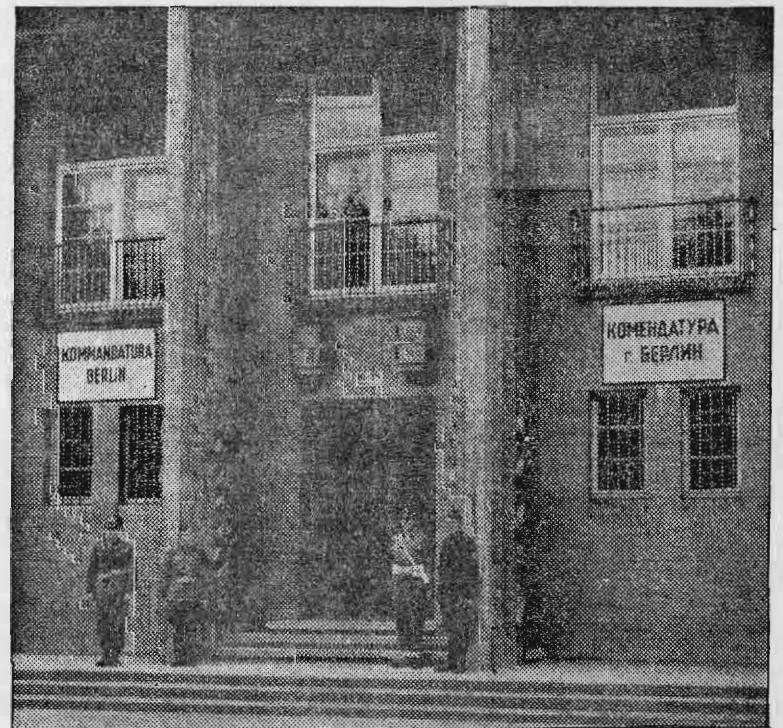
Signal Corps Photo

The Headquarters of the Office of Military Government For Germany US, in Zehlendorf, of which the Observer is a part. Here also are the offices of the Commander-in-Chief, European Command.



Signal Corps Photo

McNair Barracks, one of many similar troop compounds in Berlin which house over 7,000 Observer readers.



Signal Corps Photo

Allied Kommandatura from which the four powers rule the city of Berlin is situated in the US Sector. Observer's are delivered here every Friday.