



# A HISTORY OF PANZER KASERNE

BÖBLINGEN, GERMANY



1938 - 2018

80 Years of German and American use of  
Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne and Panzer Kaserne

Compiled by COL David S. Jones USA Ret.





## FOREWORD

Dedicated to those personnel past, present and future associated with Panzer Kaserne.

This short history recounts the units and events which have been associated with Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne (April 1938 to May 1945), and Panzer Kaserne (1945 to present). The illustrations, photographs, and much of the research data would not have been available were it not for the support provided by the Böblingen Stadt Archive and specifically Dr. Christoph Florian. Additionally, Mr. Walter Elkins, who established the website U.S. Army in Europe, (<https://www.usarmygermany.com/>), provided many of the photos depicting the U.S. Cold War period.

A special thanks to SFC Kevin Fish USA Ret. whose exhaustive research and unique interaction with veterans and family members of Panzer-Regiment 8, provided outstanding detail to this story.

For a comprehensive history of Panzer-Regiment 8, recommend reading “Panzer Regiment 8: In World War II: Poland-France-North Africa” by Kevin Fish.

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa  
Panzer Kaserne  
2018

The following is a short “unofficial” history of Panzer Kaserne in the Stuttgart Military Community.





## Before the Kaserne

The Böblingener Stadtwald has a long association with the city of Böblingen. The forest in which Panzer Kaserne sits today was a source of revenue for the city hundreds of years ago, noted for its production of wood planks which were traded across the region. Additionally, the Dukedom used the forest as a royal hunting preserve and to this day, one can still find remnants of a unique tunnel and trench system in which large hunting parties could approach game without being seen.

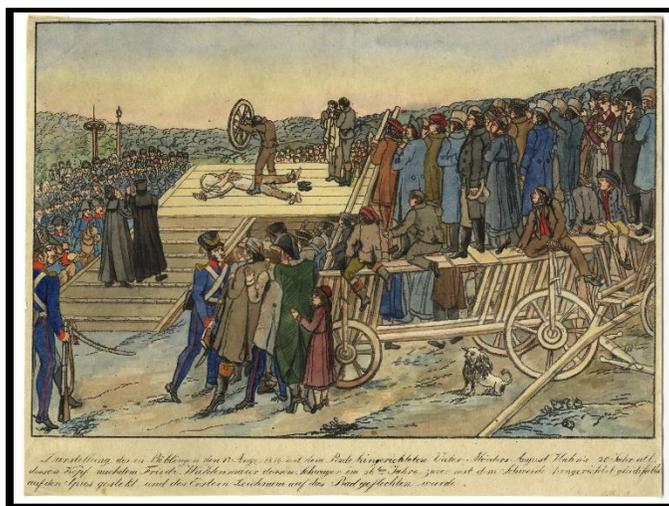


The “three sickles” memorial to the Battle of Böblingen during the German Peasant’s Revolt located at the intersection of Panzer Strasse and Stuttgarter Strasse.

## Battle of Böblingen May 1525

The German Peasants Revolt (Deutscher Bauernkrieg) of 1524-1525, was a revolt by peasants and farmers seeking religious and economic freedoms from the aristocracy. The revolts started in the southwest corner of present day Germany and spread across Central Europe in mostly German speaking regions. On 12 May 1525, the Battle of Böblingen was fought on the ground between Böblingen and Sindelfingen, as the aristocracy-led Swabian League attacked the Württemberg Band of peasants and farmers. The Württemberg Band formed defenses across the hill slopes to the north of the cities and placed their 18 artillery pieces on Galgenberg (known as Galgebuckel on present day maps) which encompasses the Panzer Officers Club and Housing area. The peasants were routed and massacred by the Swabian League with losses of approximately 3,000 peasants. The League are said to have lost no more than 40 soldiers.





An early 19<sup>th</sup> century illustration of an execution on Böblingen's Galgenbuckel "Gallows' Hill" in 1819. Execution by wagon wheel. Picture provided by Stadt Archives Böblingen.

Another interesting historical note associated with the ground the kaserne occupies today is the fact that the main road, which connected Böblingen with Stuttgart, was Waldberg Strasse, on which the original Officers Kasino (bldg. 3180) and Panzer Housing are built. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, this was the location of the Böblingen gallows (Galgenberg or "Gallows Hill") on which criminals were executed, as this was the high ground on the main road on the edge of town for passersby to see.

## The new Kaserne

Preparations for the building of the kaserne started with the construction of Panzerstrasse between 28 August and 30 September 1936. The construction of the kaserne commenced on 1 October 1936 on 620 hectares of the Böblingener Stadtwald. The construction initially progressed slowly as Adolf Hitler's directed construction of the "West Wall" on Germany's western border placed a high demand on the availability of cement and iron reinforcing bars during this time. Additionally, the region experienced heavy rains, which hindered the construction. Despite these challenges, the kaserne was completed so that on 1 April 1938, an advanced group of Panzer-Regiment 8 moved into the newly dedicated "Hindenburg und Ludendorff" Kaserne (Field Marshal Hindenburg and Gen Ludendorff commanded the German Army in the final years of World War I). The regiment was officially welcomed with a grand parade in the city of Böblingen on 9 April 1938 with the tanks travelling from the rail head to the kaserne. Along with Panzer-Regiment 7 at Kurmärker Kaserne (present day Patch Barracks) in Vaihingen, the regiments formed Panzer-Brigade 4 for the German Wehrmacht.





“Then” Regimental Commander Oberst (Colonel) Johann Haarde reviews the grand parade from the railhead to the kaserne on 9 April 1938 in Böblingen along Sindelfingen Strasse from his Command Befehlspanzer I. “Now” 2018 same view on Post Platz with Gasthaus Platzhirsch on the right



“Then” 9 April 1938, main gate of Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne showing the raising of the German war ensign in front of the guard room as Oberst Haarde, the Commander of PzRgt 8 is the first tank to enter the kaserne. The tank is the command variant Befehlspanzer I of the Panzerkampfwagen I series. “Now” 2018, Marines of G-2, MARFOREUR/AF gather in front of the old guard room of bldg. 2900.

The original Officers Club (or Kasino) for Panzer-Regiment 8 was known after the U.S. occupation as the Panzer Hotel until it closed in 2000. Today, it is often referred to as the “old firehouse” or “Rommel Club.” Though Rommel had no affiliation with the kaserne, as he was never stationed there, nor did he command Panzer-Regiment 7 or 8 (Rommel commanded the 7. Panzer Division in France in 1940), the name may have been associated with the fact that Rommel commanded the Deutsches Afrika Korps (DAK) under which Panzer-Regiment 8 served in North Africa. The club still has much of its original interior, to include the large mural of dueling knights painted in 1939 and carved stones with the crests of many of Germany’s states from the 1930’s.





“Then” main gate of Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne in 1938/39.  
“Now” Panzer Kaserne main gate in 2018 (MARFOREUR/AF Bldg 2900)

## Panzer-Regiment 8

Panzer-Regiment 8 was established in October 1936 in Zossen, Germany, just south of Berlin. The regiment assumed the traditions and lineage of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Badischen Dragoner Regiment Prinz Karl Nr. 22 in a directive from 3 October 1936. Panzer-Regiment 8 occupied the newly constructed Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne in Böblingen on 9 April 1938 after railing its tanks from Zossen to the Böblingen railhead.

On 20 April 1939, as a part of 10. Panzer Division, Panzer-Regiment 8 deployed from Böblingen to Mylowitz near Prague, Czechoslovakia, which Germany occupied in 1938. The regiment returned to its garrison in Böblingen on 29 August 1939 after four months of occupation duty.



“Then” Panzer-Regiment 8 troops pass in review for their commander.  
“Now” 2018 Stuttgart Garrison In-processing Bldg. 2913 and MARFOREUR/AF Bldg. 2900 in background. Photo taken from second floor of 554<sup>th</sup> MP Company “Clifton Hall.”





With the commencement of World War II on 1 September 1939, Panzer-Regiment 8 fought in the Invasion of Poland and would cross the Polish border on 3 September 1939 through the Danzig corridor and then enter the German territory of East Prussia. The regiment initially arrived in Johannesburg (present day Bemowo Piska) and stage at the Arys training area (Orzysz) during which 10. Panzer Division participated in forming Gruppe Falkenhorst a Korps level command. On 7 September, the regiment headed south and crossed back into Poland in the vicinity of Schwidern (Swidry) and attack towards Lomza. The regiment fought a number of sharp engagements during its advance south-east towards Brest-Litowsk on the Bug River, and participated in the capture of the fortress at Brest-Litowsk starting on 17 September. With the conclusion of the Polish campaign, the regiment returned to Germany on 24 September and was back in garrison at Böblingen on 19 October 1939.

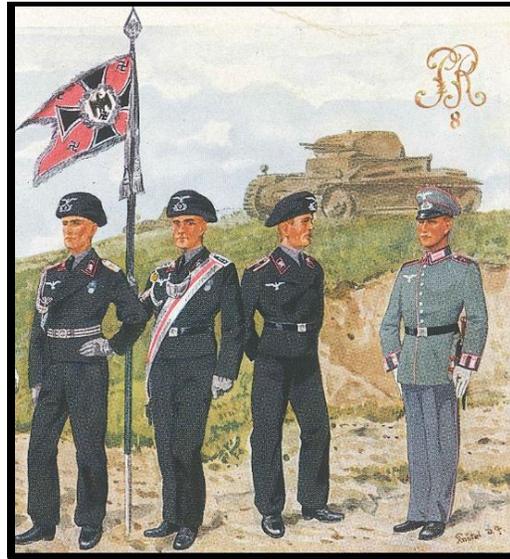


“Then” 1939-1940 Memorial to two members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Company, Panzer-Regiment 8 who were killed in Poland in September 1939. A captured French 75mm cannon sits on top. “Now” the plaque in 2018 on display in the center of the 1-10<sup>th</sup> SFG (ABN) parking lot.

In preparation for the invasion of France, Panzer-Regiment 8 was again assigned to 10. Panzer Division and positioned in the Westerwald in northwestern Germany for the period 29 November 1939 to 9 May 1940. From 10 May to 26 June, the regiment fought with 10. Panzer Division across Luxembourg, southern Belgium, the Ardennes, Sedan, and push across northern France to Amiens and Calais and participated in the encirclement of Allied forces in the north of France. The regiment then participated in operations in the Loire region south of Paris. With the fall of France, the regiment assumed occupation duties in France from 26 June 1940 to 1 February 1941.

After departing France in February 1941, the regiment relocated to Schwetzingen (near Heidelberg) where it joined the 15. Panzer Division which was bound for North Africa.





A 1938/39 post card view of duty and dress uniforms worn by officers and enlisted of Panzer-Regiment 8 and its regimental colors.

On 1 April 1941, the Regiment with 180 tanks commenced movement by rail south to Naples, Italy, where it was shipped out on transports for North Africa with the first ship reaching Tripoli, Libya, on 24 April and thus joining Rommel's Deutsche Afrika Korps (DAK) and the fight against the British Eighth Army. In May 1941, the regiment would move east bypassing besieged Tobruk on their way to Bardia and Sollum on the Italian Libya-Egypt frontier. In late May and until mid- June, the regiment participated in tank battles in the area including the battle of Fort Capuzzo as they fought the British Eighth Army's Operation Battleaxe. The regiment then participated in the Operation Crusader battles of 18 November to 30 December 1941, and the subsequent retreat from the Egyptian frontier in late 1941/early 1942. Tobruk finally fell to Rommel's Panzergruppe Afrika on 21 June 1942 after the defeat of the Eighth Army in the Battle of Gazala. In July 1942, the regiment fought in the first Battle of El Alamein in Egypt, and then participated in the second battle of El Alamein 23 October to 11 November 1942, during which Panzergruppe Afrika was defeated by Gen Montgomery's Eighth Army and the long retreat west for the Germans would commence. By 1943, the regiment was in Tunisia serving with the 5th Panzer Army after the lengthy retreat across Libya. In February 1943, portions of the regiment participated in the attack against elements of the II (US) Corps to include the US 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and US 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in what the US Army called the Battle of Kasserine Pass. By spring of 1943, the British First Army with II (US) Corps was pressing from the west, and the British Eighth Army from the south. In April 1943, all remaining German tanks in Tunisia were reformed under Oberst Josef Irkens, the last commander of





Panzer-Regiment 8, and designated Kampfgruppe Irkens. On 9 May 1943, Kampfgruppe Irkens destroyed its last operational tanks which had run out of fuel and surrendered to the US 1st Armored Division near Porto Farina north of Tunis on the coast.

The war for Panzer-Regiment 8 had come to an end in Tunisia. Those that survived to surrender were shipped across the Atlantic to Prisoner of War camps in North America with officers being sent to Camp Crossville, Tennessee, and enlisted troops to camps in Canada and the southwestern United States to work in fields and forests. A few would remain in camps in North Africa until 1947. For members of the regiment that had served with Panzer Ersatz Ausbildungs Abteilung 7 (Tank Reserve and Training Battalion 7) back in Böblingen, or had come out of Tunisia as a result of wounds or other reasons, the war continued. The personnel in Germany formed the Panzer Abteilung 8 which would be retrained on the Sturmgeschütze III “assault gun” and be assigned to 20. Panzer Grenadier Division. After training in France and Holland in 1943, the unit now known as “Panzer Abteilung 8” (maintaining the honors of the original regiment) was sent to the Eastern Front and returned to Böblingen to reform and refit in 1944 and again in early 1945. Panzer Abteilung 8 fought the Soviet Army in defensive battles all the way back to Berlin, and the end of the war.

Panzer-Regiment 8’s combat record with the Deutsche Afrika Korps stands out as likely the best combat force available to the Germans in North Africa. The performance and subsequent advancement of the regiment’s commanders and junior officers are an indication of the caliber of these troops and in no small part a significant reason Rommel was able to accomplish his tactical victories during the Western Desert Campaign, despite the significant challenges he faced in lack of logistics support, and an opponent superior in numbers.

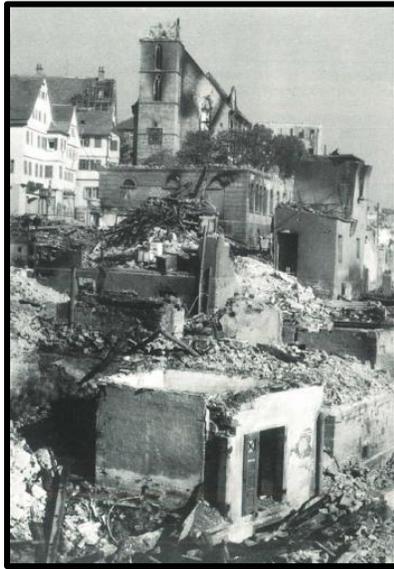
## **War’s End**

Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne, unlike Kurmärker Kaserne or the city of Böblingen, ended the war with little damage. The city of Böblingen had been bombed numerous times by both the British Royal Air Force (RAF), and the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) with the most destructive of the bombing raids taking place with an RAF night bombing 7/8 October 1943. RAF Lancaster bombers dropped 35 high-explosive bombs and over 400 incendiary bombs over the town. The Schloßberg, church, and over 70% of the old town was destroyed. 1,735 people lost their homes, and 44 people died as a result of the raid.





A memorial to that raid is mounted on the wall of the Böblingen Marktplatz by the Rathaus. In the case of Kurmärker Kaserne, USAAF conducted a raid in the later stages of the war that destroyed or damage a number of its buildings.



“Then” ruins of Böblingen altstadt after RAF air raid on 7/8 October 1943. Ruins of Stadtkirche Böblingen appear in the background. “Now”, Böblingen Markt Platz 2018.

At Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne, one last notable event of the Third Reich played out in late 1944. The Porsche manufacturing firm assembled and test a new “super heavy” tank for the Wehrmacht called the “Maus” on the kaserne. Weighing in at 180 tons, the tank proved too heavy for practical use and more often sunk in the mud of the training range. Only two tanks were produced, and after testing at Böblingen, the tanks were sent to Wünsdorf just south of Berlin where both fell into Soviet hands at war’s end.



The Panzer VIII “Maus” on display at the Kubinka Tank Museum in Russia.

With the collapse of the German defenses, the U.S. Seventh Army under LTG Alexander Patch, and the French 1<sup>st</sup> Army, both under General Devers’ 6<sup>th</sup> Army





Group, advanced east and encircled Stuttgart and its surrounding area. The French II Corps initially occupied Stuttgart and the area south including Böblingen. Not until 7 July 1945 would units of the U.S. 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division occupy the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe kasernes which the French had initially captured.

Shortly after the end of the war, Hindenburg und Ludendorff Kaserne were used as a Displaced Persons (DP) camp for mostly Russian and Eastern European DPs who did not wish to return to the Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe. Most all had been brought to the Third Reich to serve as forced labor in both the factories and fields. A number of these DPs perished at war's end and small cemetery plots can be found in the surrounding area of Böblingen. The DP camp was run by the United Nations Refugee Relief Association (UNRRA) and the International Refugee Organization (IRO).

### **The Americans Arrive**

No authoritative date can be found for when the DP Camp closed and the kaserne was passed to the U.S. Army, however, U.S. troops entered Böblingen on 7 July 1945, replacing the French troops which had occupied the area since April. Nor is there an exact date for when the U.S Army changed the name to Panzer Kaserne. Panzer Kaserne would see its first major building boom in 1946 with the construction of a theater and gas station. This would be followed in 1950 by the construction of the church and a gym. And in 1951, the kaserne would see the addition of "Little America" (as the Germans called it) with the construction of Panzer housing area which could accommodate 950 families on Galgenberg. The old Officers Kasino would serve as the original Panzer Hotel until its closure in 2000.

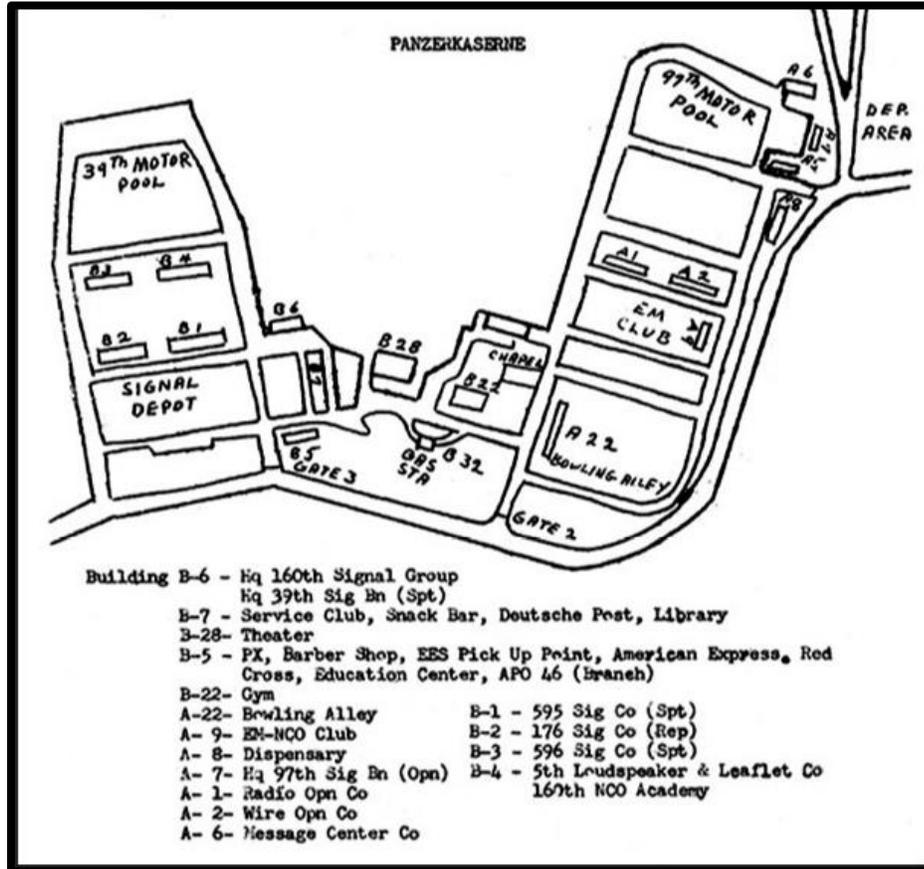
Panzer Kaserne saw numerous units during the course of the Cold War come and go. During the 1950s, both the U.S. Seventh Army and VII Corps were activated on Patch Barracks (originally Kurmärker Kaserne), and Kelley Barracks (originally Hellenen Kaserne) respectively. Support units for both those commands were based at Panzer Kaserne.

Initially the 301<sup>st</sup> Signal Group was stationed on Panzer Kaserne as U.S. Seventh Army's Signal Group from 1952 until it was inactivated and replaced by the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group in 1955. The 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group and its battalions occupied Panzer Kaserne from 1955 till 1961. The Group provided communications support for over 100 Seventh Army installations with telephone, teletype, and radio message service. The unit was also equipped with a loudspeaker and leaflet company and tactical communications capability for Seventh Army as a part of its wartime mission.





In 1956 the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group Aviation Section was established at Stuttgart Army Airfield by consolidating the aviation assets from the 97<sup>th</sup> Sig Bn (Op) and 39<sup>th</sup> Sig Bn (Spt). The aviation section flew the Seventh Army courier route between Stuttgart-Heidelberg-Frankfurt starting in 1957 till 1961.



1950s map of Panzer Kaserne showing unit and facility locations. Seventh Army's 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group was the major tenant unit. The alpha-numeric building designations was the building marking system in the 1950's.



“Then”, 1955 an Army Specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (E-4) with Seventh Army shoulder patch poses in front of the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group HQ on Panzer Kaserne.





In 1967, the Support Operations Task Force-Europe was based on Panzer and would later become U.S. Special Operations Command-Europe. In the 1970s and 1980s, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Forward) would call the kaserne home.



“Then” 1952 photo of the “Böblingen Service Club”. “Now” 2018 HQ, U.S. Army Garrison, Stuttgart bldg. 2949 with soldiers of the 554<sup>th</sup> MP Company.

## End of the Cold War

In November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell in Germany and the collapse of the Soviet Union would shortly follow. These events initiated the drawdown of U.S. forces based in Europe, and especially in Germany. Additionally, with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the U.S. responded by deploying the VII Corps and a number of divisions, brigades, and regiments from Germany. Many of these units destined for Operation DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM did not return to Germany, but were either deactivated and dropped from the rolls, or reflagged at a base back in the CONUS. In July-August 1991, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) moved from Bad Tölz to Panzer as a part of the post-Cold War/DESERT STORM base realignment, which was consolidating U.S. bases as other U.S. facilities were returned to the German government. Additionally, Naval Special Warfare Unit-2 (NSWU-2) relocated from its base in Scotland to Panzer in the early 1990's. Panzer Kaserne had lost its largest tenant units, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Mech), and 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armor both of the 3d Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Forward) after they deployed to Desert SHIELD/STORM. They were then inactivated and their colors moved to Fort Riley, Kansas after the war.

In 1993, the Fleet Marine Forces Europe moved from London, England, to Panzer Kaserne. The command would later become U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe, which would be joined by U.S. Marines Corps Forces Africa in 2008, and again would combine to form U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF) in 2015.





“Then” 1958 photo of Panzer Kaserne Main Gate with 175th MP Company Jeeps, and a 1952 Chevrolet. “Now” 2018 with new main gate, elevated walkway to Panzer Housing Area, and MP vehicle of the 554<sup>th</sup> MP Company by Bldg. 2900 MARFOREUR/AF.



“Then” 1950s photo of soldiers conducting guard mount inspection in front of bldg. 2901. “Now” MARFOREUR/AF Color Guard conducts drill on Teufelhunden Str., Bldg. 2901 HQ, MARFOREUR/AF.



“Then” 1950s photo of soldiers from the 176<sup>th</sup> Signal Company in front of the wooded lot with the HQ, 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Group in the background, and Böblingen Service Club on the right. “Now” 2018 with 1-10<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) HQ in background, and HQ, U.S. Army Garrison, Stuttgart on right.



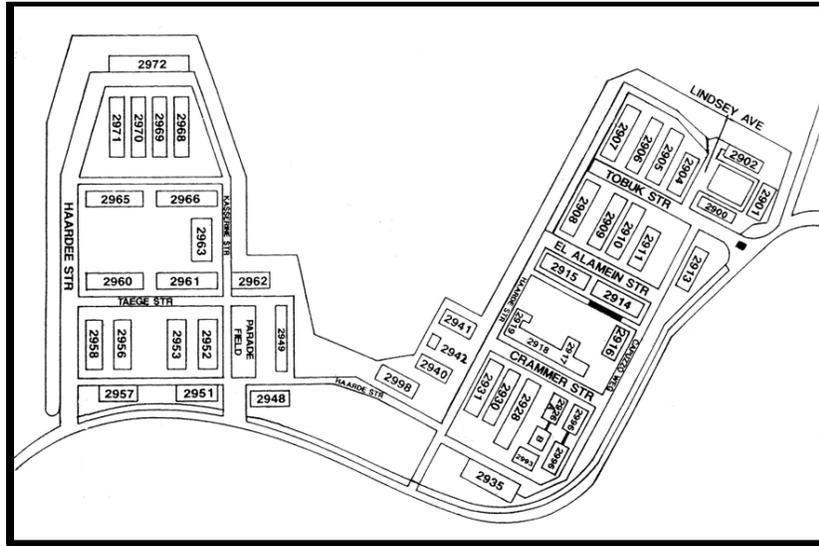


## Kaserne Street Names

The kaserne has a number of street names which tell the story of its previous occupants, both German and American. The Panzer-Regiment 8 veterans' association donated street signs to the kaserne in 1978 to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the regiments occupation of the kaserne in 1938. The street names would honor persons and places associated with the regiment. Two key street names associated with Panzer-Regiment 8 are still posted near the main entrance and denote battles from the early stages of the North Africa campaign in 1941. Both Tobruk Strasse and Capuzzo Weg are named after battles in Eastern Libya that the regiment participated in against the British Eighth Army. Over the years, many street name signs have been removed and not replaced. Some of those that were associated with the regiment include: Haardee Strasse, named in honor of the Regiments first commander, Oberst Hans Haarde; Taege Strasse named after Oberst Willie Taege, who was killed in North Africa, and Cramer Strasse, named in honor of Oberst (later LTG) Hans Cramer, who was the commander of the regiment when it deployed to North Africa and would later assume command of the DAK along with General von Arnim, Cramer surrendered the DAK to the Allies in May 1943.

American street names are mostly associated with the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, which occupied the kaserne in the 1970s and 1980s. Both Monteith Street and Lindsey Avenue are named for members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment from World War II who were recipients of the Medal of Honor. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Jimmie W. Monteith Jr. received his medal posthumously for his actions on Omaha Beach on 6 June 1944. Tech/Sergeant Jake Lindsey received his medal for his action near Hamich, Germany, on 16 November 1944. Also, Kasserine Strasse is in memory of the first ground fight between German and American forces in the North Africa campaign, which saw Rommel's Africa Korps inflict a defeat on U.S. forces at Kasserine Pass, in Tunisia. It is notable that both Panzer-Regiment 8 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division fought at Kasserine. And in honor of the German nickname associated with U.S. Marines that fought them at Belleau Wood, France, in World War I, Teufelhunde Strasse honors the "Devil Dogs" of the U.S. Marine Corps. In the Panzer housing area, Casablanca Platz, recalls one of the major objectives of Operation TORCH and the U.S. landings in Northwest Africa in November 1942.





1970s map of Panzer Kaserne showing street names

### Remnants of the Third Reich on Panzer Kaserne

Signs of the Third Reich and the Wehrmacht's occupation of the kaserne can still be found today. Two Wehrmacht eagles are still present on buildings 2918 and 3162. The old Officers Kasino (bldg. 3180) also has its original 1939 mural of dueling knights, and carved stone crests of Germany's 1930s provinces to include Prussia and Silesia. Much of the interior of the building is in its original design and décor from its days as the Officers Kasino for Panzer-Regiment 8, and later as Panzer Hotel with its Keller Club. Today the building serves the Stuttgart Military Community as a venue for conferences and organizational functions.



“Then” 1939 Gate #3 and Wehrmacht emblem over building entryway, “Now” 2018 and same eagle on Bldg. 2948.





“Then” 1939 Officers Kasino Great Hall, “Now” 2018 Great Hall in Bldg. 3140. The ceiling beam supports have the carved coat of arms of German provinces.



“Now” 2018 original 1939 carved stone ceiling beam supports with East Prussia (L) and Silesia (R) coat of arms in the Officers Kasino, Bldg 3140. Both of these pre-WW2 German provinces are now in Poland.



“Then” 1939, “Now” 2018 Dueling Knights mural in the old Officer’s Kasino Bldg. 3180.





Wehrmacht emblem over entryway of Bldg. 3162.

### **Dedication of Devil Dog Field**

To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I, Devil Dog Field was dedicated on 8 November 2018 by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa on Panzer Kaserne. The commander of MARFOREUR/AF, MajGen Russel A. Sanborn presided over the event which included the unveiling of a memorial comprised of two stones from Belleau Wood, France with a bronzed World War I helmet. The memorial rests on a foundation of black cobblestones with a star in the center to symbolize the 4th Marine Brigade shoulder patch which was worn after the unit assumed occupation duties along the Rhine River in Germany in December 1918.



MajGen Sanborn pauses at the Devil Dog Field memorial after its dedication on 8 November 2018. Photo by John Reese, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs.





## Panzer Kaserne Today and Tomorrow

Numerous improvements have gone in to making Panzer Kaserne the support hub for the Stuttgart Military Community. In February 2007, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) opened a new Post Exchange and shopping mall, relocating it from Patch Barracks. In 2016, Patch High School moved from Patch Barracks to the newly constructed Stuttgart High School and Elementary School, which adjoins Panzer Kaserne.

Going forward in to the 2020s Panzer Kaserne will see the consolidation of the commissaries on Patch and Kelley Barracks with the construction of a \$40 million Panzer Commissary, which will be located between the Panzer PX and Panzer Hotel. Construction is expected to be complete around January 2021. The kaserne will also see the demolition of the current Auto Skills facilities and a new \$8.8 million Auto Skills Center built in its place. The MARFOREUR/AF HQ (bldg. 2901) will see a \$42 million top-to-bottom renovation, to include an attic expansion of 1,995 square feet, construction of a 12,744 square foot addition which will provide a command and control facility, planning rooms, conference center with main assembly hall, and multiple conference rooms.

These and other investments in today's Panzer Kaserne show a vibrant hub of support to the Stuttgart Military Community and its military, civilian, and family members, continuing the proud 80-year German and American tradition of the Kaserne.



U.S. military personnel representing the tenant units of Panzer Kaserne in 2018 from left to right; Marine Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF), 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), Naval Special Warfare Unit, and 554<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

