

EC DESIGN FOR MODERN LIVING



First Sgt Thomas H. Fay, of H Co, 18th Inf, 1st Div with his wife, Betty Jo and their two children, Colleen, 5, and Richard, 3, in the spacious living room of their home in the Aschaffenburg project.

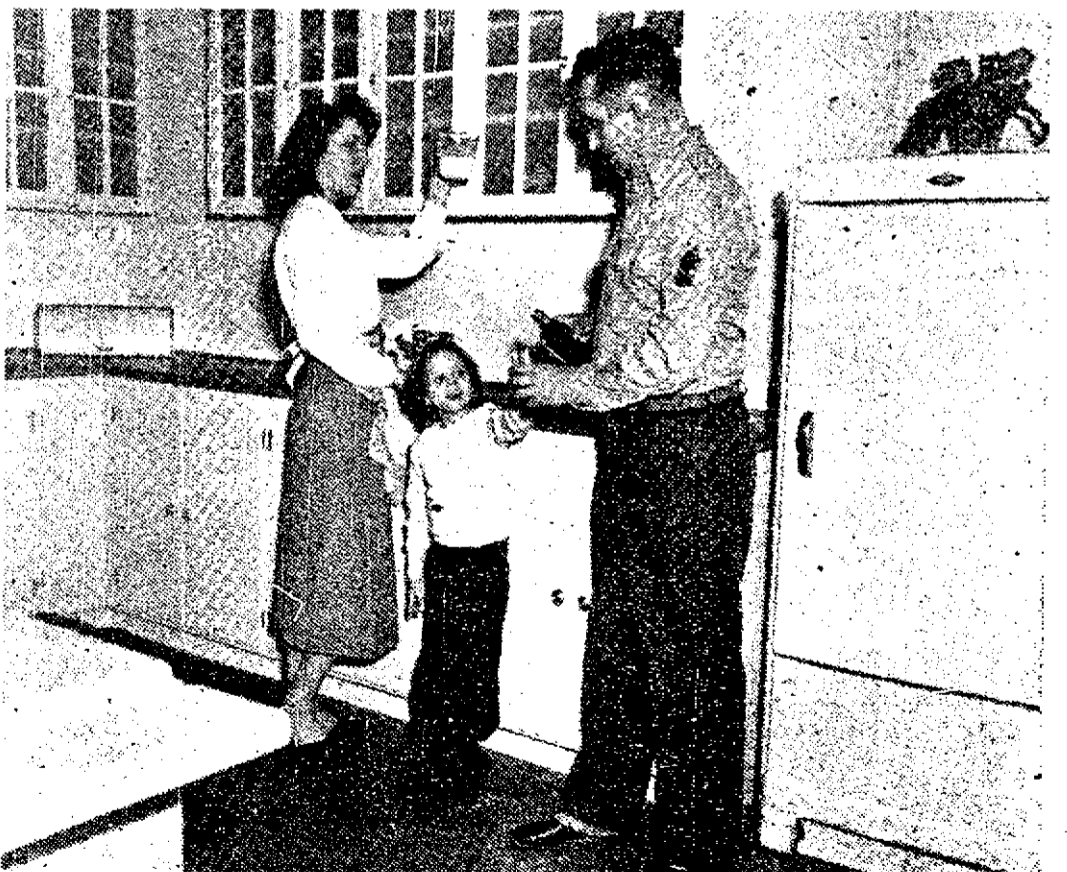
Right, M. Sgt William F. Garland, of Hq Co, 18th Inf, is shown with his wife, Helen and their three daughters, Glenda Lee, 7, Billie Jo, 6, and Sandra Elizabeth, 3, in a cozy corner of their living room in Aschaffenburg.



The three Garland daughters (left) enter the dining room of their apartment at Aschaffenburg. Note the built-in china closets which flank the entrance, replacing the "schrank."



Below, the Fays gather in the kitchen of their apartment while Mrs. Fay mixes a cake. The electric refrigerator at right is brand new, as is the electric stove. The arrangement of cabinets and closets provides ample space for storage and work tables.



A Stars and Stripes Report

SPRING CLEANING TIME is coming up, and the ancient wish of housewives to "leave this grubby place and start in with a new house" may be more than idle dreaming this year.

For Army and Air Force housing projects are in the mill, and the end of the critical housing shortage is in sight, at least to keen-eyed architects. EUCOM engineer division officials say the units under way, either built entirely new or converted and rehabilitated from kasernes, former displaced-persons camps and war-damaged structures, and other projects contemplated "as funds become available," will take the desperation out of the plea: "But where am I going to get a house for my family?"

Almost daily now families are moving into some of the 962 units under construction by the Army or the 1,445 under USAFE construction. All new construction now under way will be completed by June.

Army projects under construction or just completed embrace:

Aschaffenburg, 156 units; Heidelberg, 108; Hanau (Argonner Kaserne), 110 (consisting of 48 family units, 12 additional family units for female billets, and a 50-unit bachelor officers' quarters with an integral mess hall); Mannheim, 120 units.

Aschaffenburg, Heidelberg and the Argonner Kaserne units at Hanau are new. Mannheim is a conversion from a former International Refugee Organization structure.

USAFE projects take in:

Frankfurt (Atterbury-Betts), 219; Frankfurt (hospital area), 51; Wiesbaden, 398; Munich, 475; Rhine-Main Air Base, 224, and Mainz-Kastel, 78 units. All but the Mainz-Kastel project are new construction.

Additional rehabilitation and conversions by military posts are providing 58 units at Augsburg, 107 at Heidelberg, 34 at Nürnberg, 206 at Stuttgart, 18 at Wetzlar and 45 at Würzburg.

Thus, the Army is building a total of 384 new family units and USAFE 1,097 for a grand total of 1,481. Converted units include 588 by the Army, plus 348 by USAFE, for a total of 936. All this means that 2,807 units are available or will be soon in the EC.

But this is not the end of housing plans for occupation families. Already approved

and in the first phase of planning are 330 new apartments and conversion of 360 renovated units for the Army and 224 more for USAFE.

Most of the new construction consists of three-story buildings with 12 apartments per building. Basements contain the heating plant, laundry and storage facilities, and attics have maids' quarters and children's play areas.

Average floor space for a two-bedroom apartment is about 1,150 square feet, and for a three-bedroom unit, about 1,400 square feet.

The Heidelberg project, costing about 4,300,000 marks, is scheduled for completion this month. It is the prototype for most of the new construction. Located on Romerstrasse, within shouting distance of EUCOM Hq, the development blends American and German architectural and construction practices.

Each apartment will have terrazzo and tile in bathrooms and kitchens, almost to ceiling height; exterior stucco finish; combination tubs and showers; central heating, and outside windows. The apartments open onto a central parkway, with service entrances to the rear. Parking areas are laid out in the rear. Attics contain 1,000 square feet of children's play area for each half building, while basements contain laundries and drying rooms.

LOCAL GERMAN authorities participated in the designing, since the apartments ultimately will revert to the Germans.

One German contractor came up with a postwar wrinkle in construction—rubble concrete. It uses crushed rubble, trucked from Mannheim, which has plenty, instead of crushed rock. The concrete was poured into wire-mesh frames to form walls 15 inches thick, and this extra thickness, combined with the porousness of the concrete, will provide an unusual degree of insulation, according to engineers.

Another project which might be taken as a model of new construction is the USAFE development at Rhine-Main.

Foundations have been poured for four buildings, each of which will contain 56 apartments. Located just outside the main gate of the base, the buildings are scheduled for occupancy in July. The land they occupy formerly was timber-

(Continued on Page 6)

FEATURE SECTION