


*Ludwigsburg is my great home!*

the  
  
 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment First Infantry Division

Published each week by and for the men of the 26th Infantry Regiment and attached units in the Ludwigsburg-Kornwestheim Enclave formerly The Red Bat BREEZE

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Editor — Steve Stepien News — Jack Siegel  
 Photography — Talmadge Eaton, Edward Sachße

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## *Showplace of Nobility - Ludwigsburg*

It is obvious to all GI's stationed in Ludwigsburg that this town is far from typical of the other German towns that went comparatively unbombed. One string of bombs was released on Ludwigsburg 1944 in an attempt to hit their railroad lines, but other than that, it was left unmolested, for it was a hospital center, and there were no large factories here for targets.

This is not the reason that it is unique among German towns, for there are many towns left undamaged. The straight streets, the newness of the buildings, and the overall layout is what makes this town so unusual. The reason for this is that Ludwigsburg, which is the youngest town in Germany, was laid out before it was built. It was planned on a grand scale to be a center for royalty and the showplace of Wurttemberg.

In the late 1600's, there were many beautiful forests here, and game was abundant. The royalty from Stuttgart came frequently to hunt, but as these hunting trips became more popular and more elaborate, the housing facilities proved less adequate. First a large hunting lodge was built, but this, too, soon proved inadequate to house the grand social entertainment that became associated with the hunting festivals. Finally Duke Eberhard Ludwig decided to satisfy all present and future demands of the region by building a regular palace here.

So it was that in 1704 the foundation stone was laid for the Ludwigsburg Schloss.

As the constructions of this palace continued, greater dreams were incorporated into it until finally it was visualized as a building which would surpass Versailles, and in its own splendor show the absolute power of the Duke who owned it.

In contemplating his project, the Duke soon realized that having a beautiful palace would be insufficient unless there was a town around it to lend its convenience and service to the members of the court. Consequently, Ludwigsburg was planned, and in 1709 an appeal was issued for settlers to come.

In 1724 the whole court of Wurttemberg was transferred from Stuttgart to Ludwigsburg, and the town then became the political, artistic and intellectual center of the country. Brisk immigration and building activities had then begun.

Ludwigsburg became the permanent residence of the court, which had about 1800 followers. There were 800 horses in the royal stable. Hundreds of foreign artists, musicians and adventurers flocked to the celebrated residence. A new opera house was built and brilliant festivals were celebrated and extravagant luxury was everywhere displayed.

To meet the stress of expenses abominable measures were taken. Many outstanding men, including the famous poet Schubart, were thrown into the Schloss of Asperg and held for ransom, and soldiers were sold to raise funds.

In 1773, Karl Eugen tired of these surroundings and moved his court to Stuttgart.

When Duke Friedrich II came to power in 1797 and again returned with