



MISSION CHAMPIONS

The First Teachers

First Five Teachers

JAPAN:

- Halichi J. Whelan
- Mary Schofield
- Theodore Nelson
- Charles L. Endicott
- Richard C. Shattock

GERMANY:

- Gay Long
- Mary Merchant
- Mildred Linck
- Rex Gleason
- Ruby Anderson

To assist in the monumental task of quickly recruiting teachers, the placement services of ten American universities and colleges screened applicants and selected the best candidates. These were interviewed by two DSS representatives – Mr. R. R. Meyering and Maj. Mary S. Bell – who flew to the United States for the final selection.

Most of the elementary school teachers were chosen from the Middle West, for it was realized that the dependents' school system in Europe would closely approximate the conditions found in that area, i.e., small, scattered communities served by one- or two-teacher schools that contained all eight elementary grades. Teachers familiar with this type of instructional problem were, of course, necessary to ensure success. On the other hand, high school instructors were selected largely from the East and West coast areas; the large centralized high schools in Europe would most closely parallel the conditions found in the coastal city school systems, and representation of all geographic areas on the school staff was considered desirable.

Between August and October teachers arrived from the States, all of whom had been carefully selected by Mr. Richard Meyering and WAC Major Mary S. Bell. After arriving by ship from the East and West Coasts, the newly arrived personnel were acquainted with their new environment and working conditions.

On 23 Aug. 1946, the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* reported that the first five of approximately 300 teachers to be employed in Army Education Schools throughout Japan had arrived from the States. Six teachers arrived in Europe with one of the DSS recruiters in August, but the first major contingent did not reach Frankfurt until early in September. Many more followed in October.

Johnson Army Air Base, Irumagawa, Japan, was the scene of the opening of the first school in an occupied country on September 7, 1946. Others followed in September and October. On October 14, 1946, 38 elementary and 5 high schools in Germany opened their doors to more than 2000 children from all 48 of the United States.

Although the schoolteachers were paid from nonappropriated funds, they benefited from the same transportation and processing facilities as did regular civil service employees. Those hired from the United States were to be paid an annual salary of \$3725 while those hired locally received \$1800.

3,500 Youths To Answer ET School Bells

1946

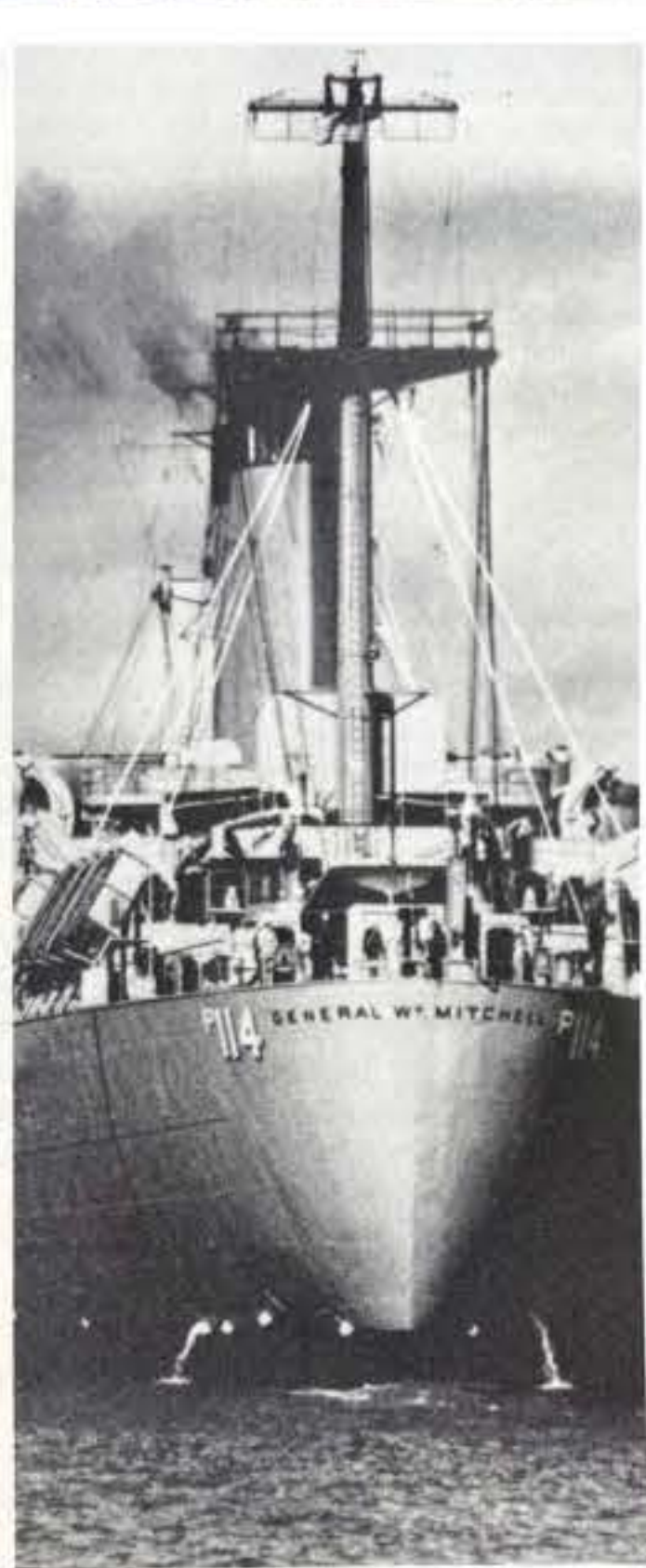
The Stars and Stripes Bureau
FRANKFURT, Sept. 20. According to latest estimates of the Theater Dependents' Education office, about 500 high school and 3,000 grammar and kindergarten children will answer roll call when American schools in Germany open their doors about two weeks from now.

"Screwy population figures" are a headache, officials said, with unexpected demands from smaller communities causing last-minute shifts and even the creation of new schools. "What we need is portable school-houses," one official concluded. A large majority of dependent children are in the lowest primary grades. He added that theater school policy calls for elementary schools to be set up in every community which has ten or more students.

There'll be no truant officers to see that even the grammar-grade youngsters get to classes, for attendance is not compulsory. High school students are expected to attend the nearest one of six centrally located American high schools, commuting by community-arranged transportation if they live within a reasonable distance, or boarding if necessary.

The six schools, together with communities served and expected enrollments are: Berlin (Berlin area), 60 students; Bremen (Grohn, Nordholz, Wesermuende) 35; Frankfurt (Bad Nauheim, Bad Wildungen, Darmstadt, Fritzlar, Fulda, Geissen, Hanau, Kassel, Rhein-Main, Wetzlar, Wiesbaden) 163; Heidelberg (Goppingen, Mannheim, Stuttgart) 75; Munich (Augsburg, Bad Tolz, Berchtesgaden, Erding, Furstenfeldbruck, Garmisch, Kaufbeuren, Landsberg, Landshut, Lechfeld, Murnau, Neubiberg, Oberpfaffenhofen, Schleissheim, Sonthofen) 74; Erlangen (Amberg, Ansbach, Bad Kissingen, Bamberg, Bayreuth, Giehlstadt, Grafenwohr, Kitzingen, Regensburg, Schweinfurt, Straubing, Wieden, Wurzburg, and Nurnberg) 115.

All schools in the theater may not open on the same day. About a third of the 100 teachers expected in Germany have arrived, and opening date, between Oct. 7 and 16, will depend on when the rest get here, officials said.



The Mitchell with sister ships Sultan and Gaffey transported troops, civilians from San Francisco to Okinawa with a stopover in Yokohama, a 17 day trip usually.



Sources:

- 1952 Erinnerungen combined high school yearbook, Dependent School Service
- The Dependents' School Program of the U.S. Army, Europe, 1946-56, Historical Division, US Army, Europe 1958
- *Stars and Stripes*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY