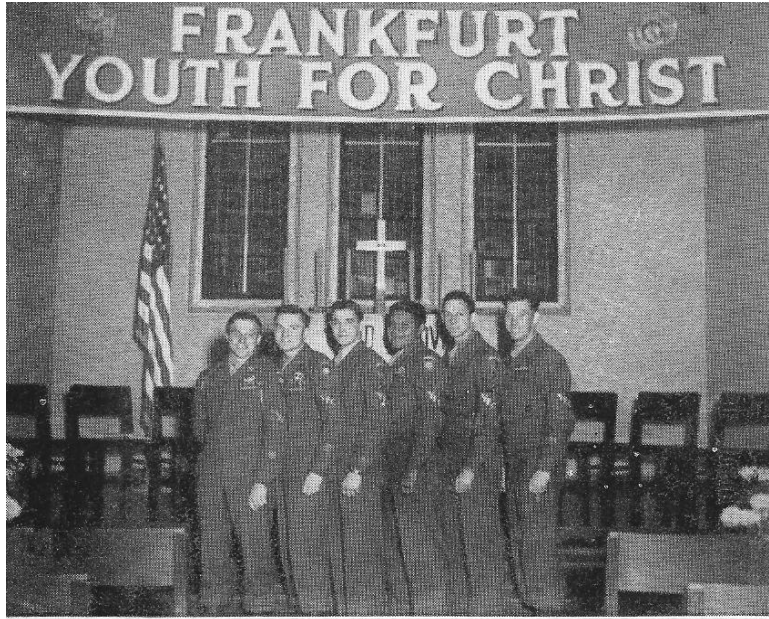


FRANKFURT GERMANY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Frankfurt, Germany 1946

Recollections by Bill Zulker
President and Director 1946

(Updated 9/18/2012)

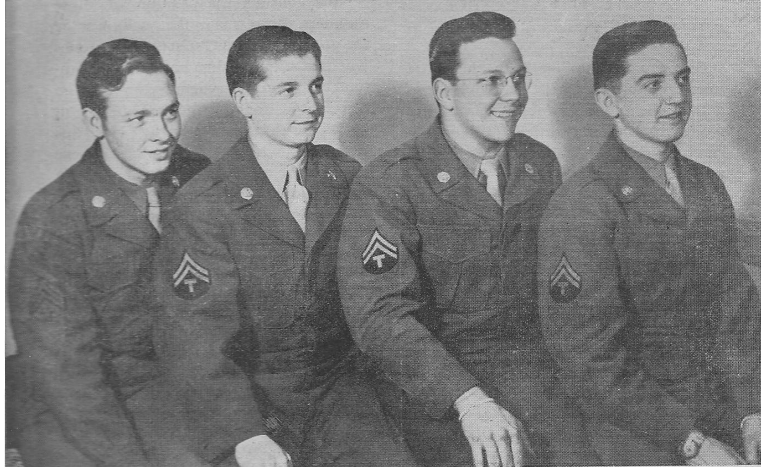


In 1946, after I finished basic training in the US Army, I was sent to Germany as a member of the Occupation Forces.

After crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a troop ship, The "USS Coaldale," we arrived at Le Havre, France and stayed for a couple of days in a tent city "Lucky Strike." We then traveled across France to Bamberg, Germany, a trip of two days by slow train. We were in box-cars called "forty and eights," which could transport forty men or eight horses. We slept on the floor and ate C-rations. Staying in Bamberg just a few days, we then were sent by train to Frankfurt, the headquarters of the Allied Forces.

When we got off the train and jumped onto open-top troop-trucks to our newly assigned barracks, a very remarkable sight appeared before my eyes. There on a **(SEE PG. 50)** lamppost was a sign that read, "Youth For Christ, Saturday nights 7:30 at the Roundup Chapel." On the first Saturday night that I could get a pass, I went, along with my brother Chuck. We were thrilled to find other Christians with whom we could associate. Not only were there rallies on Saturday, but a "council" meeting on Monday nights, Bible study on Tuesday nights and prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. We attended them all.

It was not long before Chuck and I became members of a GI singing quartet with Fred Rodman and Don Creswell.



Youth for Christ Quartet (they left for the states)

Here are four Fellows, we shall always remember. Not only were they a testimony in song, but we know their lives are living testimonies to our Lord and Saviour. Left to right are Don (Goldie) Cresswell, Chuck Zulker, Fred Rodman, and Bill Zulker.

Lil King, a member of the Woman's Army Corp. (WAC) played the piano. Lil was a terrific musician. Before long, Chuck became the song leader each Saturday night. Then, when President John Cornwell completed his military term of service in Germany and was sent back to the US, I was elected President and directed the Saturday night rallies. It was a most wonderful experience.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST RALLY

A Service You Can't Sleep Through — With
**"HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING
 AND MAKING MELODY TO THE LORD."**
 (Eph 5:19)

Including a MESSAGE FROM THE WORD OF GOD

SATURDAY EVENINGS at 7:30 P. M. ROUNDUP CHAPEL
 241 Eschersheimer Landstrasse, Frankfurt, Germany
 Located just TWO blocks North of WAC Circle

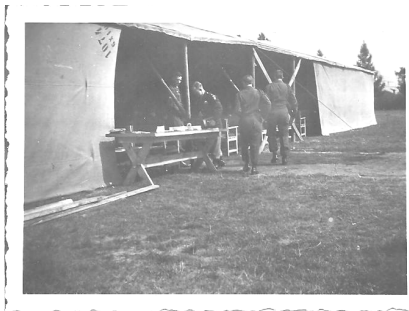
"COME SAITH THE LORD"

Frankfurt Youth For Christ started in September 1945, just four months after WWII ended, as a prayer meeting in the 3118th Signal Service Battalion. A group of GI's hung a "Prayer Meeting" sign on their door and the numbers attended grew. Deciding that a larger place was needed they moved to "Roundup Chapel," formerly a Lutheran church, located within the US military compound ringed with a chain-link fence. It was decided that if everyone sat on one side, it would appear more compact. The numbers quickly grew until it became necessary to arrive early to get a seat.

Each week there was a different speaker such as Chaplain Dwight L. Baker of the 508 Parachute Company, a favorite speaker, located in Hedderheim outside the city. He arranged for open-top trucks to transport the GI's who wanted to attend. It was always interesting to be at Roundup Chapel when they arrived, for soldiers could be heard singing, while still a block away.



Chaplain Baker was well liked and admired by his company of paratroopers for he had always jumped with them despite the danger, and they knew he was one of them. One memorable event of his ministry was the “Revival Campaign” meetings that he held on base in Hedderheim. – August 18- 25, 1946 The meetings were held in a tent, - a canvas tabernacle - such as was common among Southern Baptists.



I remember attending when Colonel Paul J. Maddox, Chief of Chaplains in the European Theater was one of the speakers. After retiring from the military, Maddox became a personal aide to Billy Graham in his crusades.

Chaplain Baker liked to do the unique. By trans-Atlantic telephone between Frankfurt, Germany and Texas, he married his home-town sweetheart and thus was permitted by the military to have his new wife join him in Germany, just like other officers. Here he is pictured making a Trans-Atlantic phone call to his bride-to-be in Texas with a clergyman at both ends. The second picture shows him being showered with rice when leaving the telephone exchange in Frankfurt.



One of the first things I remember doing was to contact a German printer to print our YFC announcements. I found a print shop in the basement of a downtown building that had been totally destroyed by the Allied bombing of Frankfurt. A narrow path had been cleared through the rubble to the basement entrance. Underground was the whole printing operation appearing as it might have been before the war. Life for the Germans had to go on.

On one weekend pass, Bill Young and I joined a group of GI's as we rode in a military bus to Assmanhausen to take a boat-trip on the Rhine River. We were told that

the boat – the Mainz - was a yacht used by Hitler. On board, we were served refreshments by a black-suited German waiter.

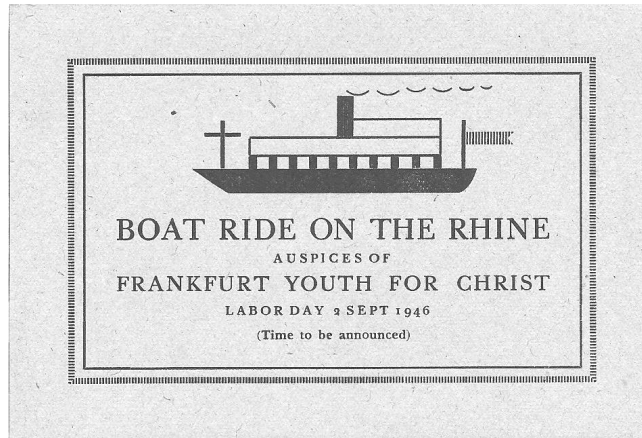


Bill Zulker on “Mainz” in 1946 and again in 1991

While on board, I remembered that back home in the US, Walter Smyth, director of Philadelphia Youth Center (a Youth For Christ type rally), had chartered and sponsored a cruise-boat trip on the Delaware River sometime in the Spring of 1945 before I went into the Army. Several of us from Trenton, NJ joined our pastor, Rev. Virgil Geren of the Church of the Open Bible in Trenton, drove to Philadelphia and enjoyed the evening cruise with Gospel singing and a message by the then relatively unknown preacher, Billy Graham, who had been employed by YFC International as an evangelist..

That day in Germany, I wondered if Frankfurt Youth For Christ could sponsor a “Rally on The Rhine.” I went to the office of Colonel Maddox, Chief of Chaplains, and found him most receptive to the idea. He suggested that I contact the Department of “Special Services” with his endorsement and request use of the yacht. We chose September 2, 1946 – the American “Labor Day” - which was a holiday for all of us, even in Germany. It would also be the First Anniversary of Frankfurt Youth For Christ. I will never forget the moment when I was ready to leave the Colonel’s office that he said, Corporal, let’s pray about this.” He then proceeded to kneel in prayer and I joined with him. I couldn’t believe that here I was in the presence of such a high-ranking officer who really walked with the Lord. What an inspiration.

I obtained permission for free Army buses to transport us on that day and got the authority to have our meetings on board the yacht. We had our German printer make up announcements with a drawing of a steam boat pictured with a banner out the back and a cross at the front.

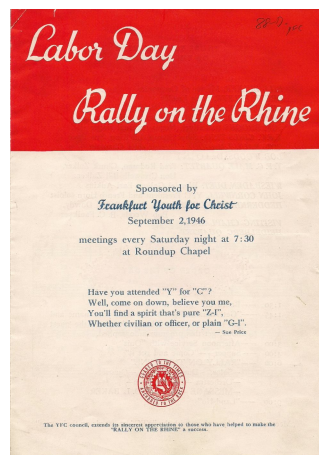


We then contacted other military chaplains in the nearby areas with the hope that they would bring groups of servicemen and women. We also printed a two-color program for the day with the title “Labor Day Rally on the Rhine.”

A sign painter made a large 20 foot by 3 foot banner for us which we hung on the deck where our meetings were held. A Youth For Christ flag flew from the top mast. Other posters were hung at the entrance and through out the ship with words like “Through these portals pass the best GI’s in Europe,” “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation,” and “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.”

We boarded the “Mainz” at 1:30, received name cards and the program folder, and attended an afternoon Bible Quiz with Bob Woods and Dr. IQ

A free supper was served in the first-level dining room and the rally began at 6:00 pm. On the upper level of the ship I was the Master of Ceremonies with brother Chuck the song leader. Lots of special music was provided by John Cornwell, French horn soloist; the Hedderheim Quartet with Don Creswell, Bill Dowdy, Bob Woods and B.C Faulkner; the Wiesbaden Duet of Wendel Gallup and Earl Adkins; Sgt. Ernie Brooks, Negro spiritual singer; the YFC male quartet of Fred Rodman, Don Creswell, Chuck Zulker and Bill Zulker; the YFC Girl’s Trio of Sibyl Sstump, Lil King, and Sue Price; the Heidelberg Quartet.; and Chuck Zulker, soloist, singing the very appropriate song, “Ship Ahoy.” Col. Paul J. Maddox, Theater Chief Chaplain, gave words of greeting, and Chaplain Dwight L. Baker was the speaker of the evening.



DAVE KOCHER'S REPORT – "RALLY ON THE RHINE"

Dave Kocher, reporting on the event in the monthly YFC news letter said: "Never before in my life have I ever enjoyed myself so much, or never did I receive such a blessing as I did with that boat load of Christians at the Rally on the Rhine. And if for some reasons I hadn't liked the rally there wasn't anything I could about it. For like Chaplain Todd said, 'Friends, there's one thing were all sure of today, and that is, that we're all in the same boat.'

Now, for you who didn't get to go on the boat ride, or you have a bad memory, I'm going to try to relive the trip up the Rhine River.

The trucks and buses started pulling up to the docks about 1:30, and from then until about 2:00, WAC's, GI's, and American Civilians swarmed aboard the Mainz, the yacht that was to take them on their journey up the river. As everyone came aboard, they were given a silk Bible marker souvenir. These, everyone pinned, stapled or tied to their lapel and ran around all day looking like he or she had just won first place in a track meet. Might I say, some of them probably felt like they had been to a track meet, because once on board they looked like a bunch of chickens with their heads cut off. Round and round and round the boat they went, on every deck, in every room, and sticking their heads in every door, (especially the mess hall). And about 9 out of every 8 had a camera, and some had two, never before in my life have I seen so many pictures taken on one day. I believe that if all the film was stretched out end to end, it would cover more ground than the yacht did.

But while all this was going on, and every one was getting acquainted, down in the dining room, the YFC council was having a meeting. The Council - that is that happy looking bunch of fellows and girls you saw running around the boat with arm bands. Someone said that they were just YFC MP's, not knowing that MP stands for mean people. I say that's a false statement for they are the ones to whom all the thanks goes. In that meeting all the last minute details were being ironed out and Bill Zulker, Chairman of the rally, drove home once more the whole plan behind the rally. To the youth council, "Labor Day" wasn't just another holiday to relax and enjoy themselves, but it was an opportunity to bring a message from the word of God to many that they might never reach again, and also a chance to show the world that Christians can have a good time in the right kind of way and still acknowledge the Lord in all that they do.

By the time the meeting was over and we had a word of prayer, everyone was settled and things were ready to start. "Attention, Attention," sounded the loudspeaker, "everyone back aft for the Bible Quiz of the day." We sang a couple of our favorite songs from the YFC song books, then Bob Woods, acting as "Dr. IQ", took over and the Bible Quiz was on.

There were GI's and Chaplains from eight different towns in Germany, who came up front and divided up into two teams; the blue and the red. There was fun and laughter for all as each tried to answer the questions. Rev. Kolf, an American preacher who has been in Germany for many years, was the Quiz Kid for the day. But, although he seemed to know all the answers for the red team, the blue team still won.

It was then time to eat. Everyone was served a fine menu in the dining halls. Then at 6:30, the Rally on the Rhine was ready to start. It began with the singing of a