

The Hauptbahnhof in Frankfurt was magnificent with a very imposing architectural design. The interior was like a large canopy or shed built over the ten or more train tracks. Remarkably, it was not destroyed by the bombing by the Allies, as was so much of the inner city.



Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof - 1946



Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof - 2008



Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof - 2008



Bill Zulker – Hauptbahnhof - 1990

Across the street from the Hauptbahnhof was the Schumann Theater which had been virtually destroyed except for the entrance, the second-floor lounge and the external balcony at the front. The American Red Cross occupied it and provided refreshments and a German band for entertainment. We enjoyed our many visits there whether on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The band leader was a lot of fun.

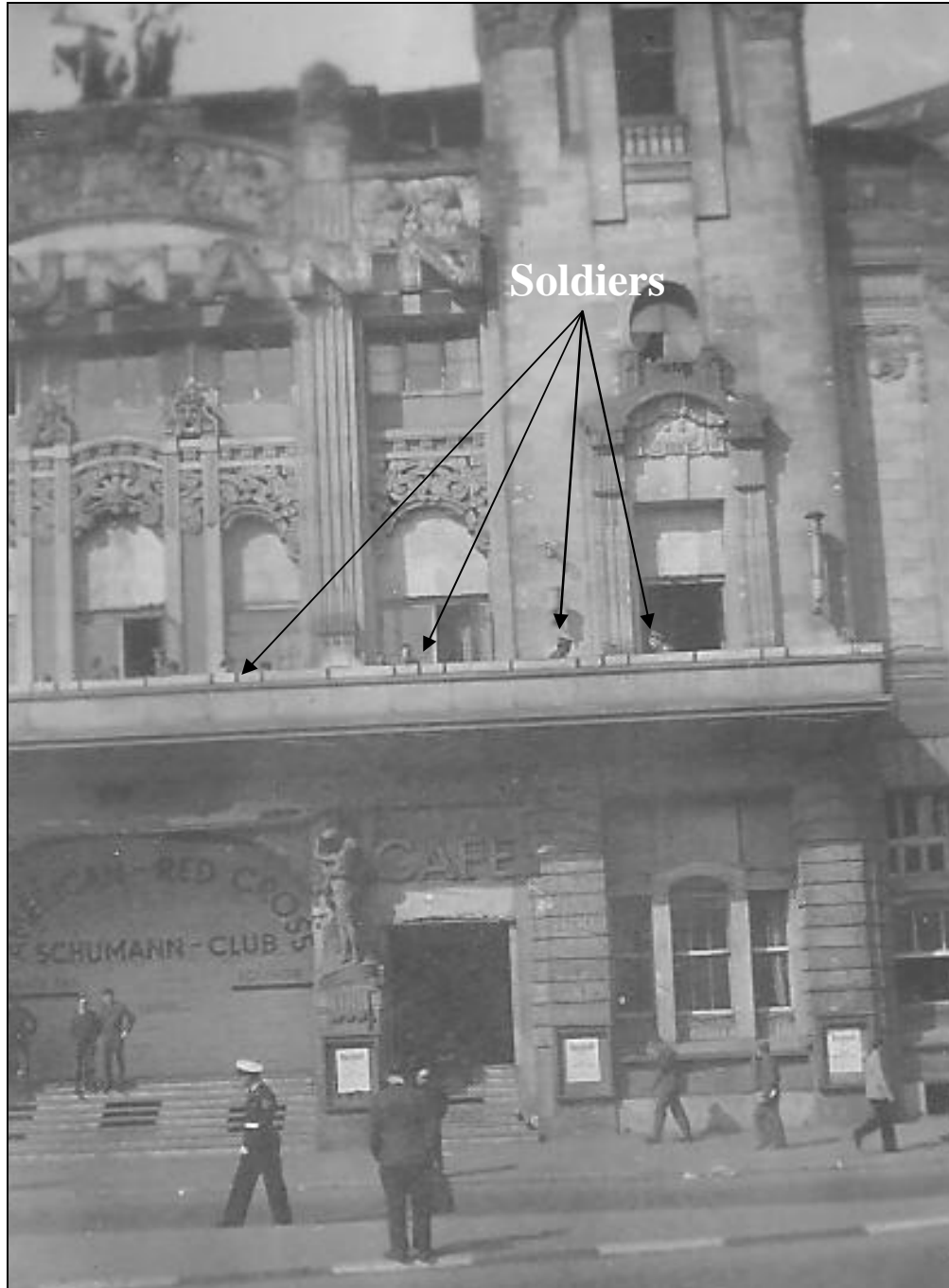


Hauptbahnhof - 1946 looking from Balcony of the Schumann Theater

One day, while there, I met one of the German musicians who said that he would give me lessons on the trombone I had purchased in South Carolina while in training. On the next visit, when I showed him my trombone, he said it needed repair which he would do. I let him have it but I never got it back. Every time I saw him he said he was working on it and needed more time. I left Germany without it. I guess it was my contribution to the restoration of the German world of music which had been severely diminished during the war years.

In the 1980's, I told my story to Mr. Carlos Moseley, long-time manager of the New York Philharmonic, who had been employed by the US Government to help rebuild the orchestras and music program of German after the War had ended. He thought it was most interesting.

SCHUMANN THEATER - FRANKFURT



Schumann Theater across from the Hauptbahnhof, Frankfurt, Germany 1946

Look at the soldiers on the balcony in the picture shown here. Later during the clean-up of Frankfurt, the building was demolished.

WORLD WAR II DESTRUCTION IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY



War-time destruction Frankfurt, 1946 – Note Cathedral spire



A Street in Frankfurt - 1946

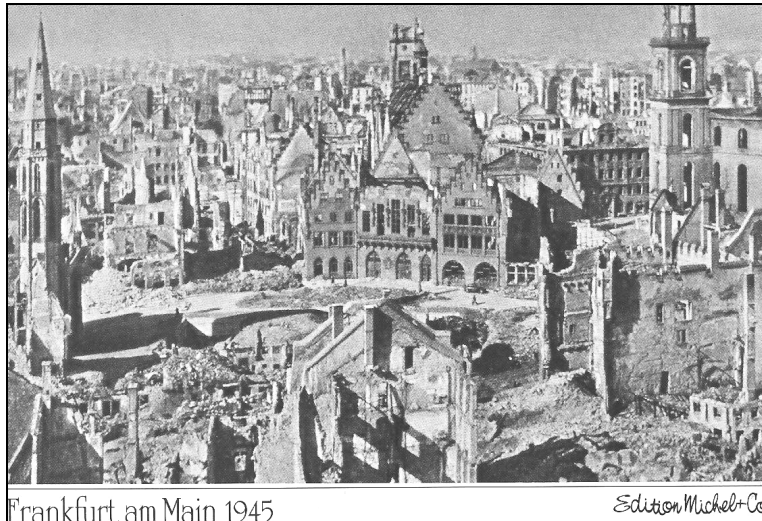


Opera House – Frankfurt 1946

We could not believe the horrible destruction that we passed every day as we went about Frankfurt. More amazing was the positive spirit that we saw in so many Germans.

Walking down the street where only a chimney was left standing, we found a path cleared through the rubble to a cellar entrance where we found a fully equipped print shop in full operation.

On many streets, there was the horrible stench of dead bodies that still lay under the rubble.



In 1990, Isabel, Barbara and I made the first of a dozen or more trips back to Germany. This particular site – the Romerburg - in the center of the city has now been fully rebuilt with many of the buildings restored in the same architecture. It appears almost as though nothing had ever happened.



Bill Zulker in bombed-out searchlight Frankfurt Airport



Bill Zulker in Frankfurt – 1946



This vehicle is equipped with a wood-burning engine providing steam power

YOUTH FOR CHRIST – FRANKFURT, GERMANY

On our first day in Frankfurt as we were riding in the open-top troop trucks from the Hauptbahnhof to Abel Barracks, I noticed a street sign that said, Youth For Christ - Roundup Chapel - Saturdays 7:30. It was the beginning of another wonderful chapter in my life. The whole story is told in another booklet of my memoirs entitled – **“Frankfurt Youth For Christ.”** Chuck and I became very involved and ultimately I was elected President and Director, with Chuck as the song-leader for all the rallies. Here is a photo of Roundup Chapel which we visited again in 1990 during the first of our several vacation trips to Germany.

