



Friday, February 1, 2002 A.D.

Annadorf, Part 3

A German Town In The San Gabriels

Part 3 of 3

Operations Winding Down

By this time Major Smillie was stationed in Europe and Camp Santa Anita was beginning to close down much of its training operations. The desert training center at Llano was closed. Camp Sabba and Horse Flats were also secured. The only facility still open and training was the Street fighting course at Big John Flat. It was now under the "Military Branch" control. This unit assumed control of all remaining ordinance training areas and Camp Santa Anita.

All Ordinance men received a two week refresher course in basic military training prior to shipping out to other posts or overseas. May 6, 1944 saw all facilities secured except the "street fighting course" This facility was, "Available for use",

to a limited extent, by Post overhead personnel and units in training.

No Official Record Of Closure

Training continued, but for how long? To date we have no official record of its closing. As a young man working for the United States Forest Service, I know the facility was in operation during the summer of 1944. Periodic convoy's of three axle trucks loaded with troops and supplies would pass the Ranger Station at Valyermo on a regular basis. A forest Patrolman's binoculars gave me a long distance look at the German Village in late summer of 1944 It was in use at that time.



Pat Krig Collection
 Inside The Beer Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection
 Inside The Beer Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10026gt.tif
Residence In Annadorf. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10018gt.tif
Army Engineers Fabricating An Annadorf
Building. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10032gt.tif
Annadorf Resident House. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10033gt.tif
House Painting. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10006gt.tif
Developing A Statue. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10012gt.tif
Annadorf Street Statuary. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10027gt.tif
 Army Engineer Fabricated Annadorf Building.
 (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m09819gt.tif
 Annadorf "German Village." (1950 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10044gt.tif
 Annadorf Wine Shop. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10035gt.tif
 Annadorf Jail. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10030gt.tif
 "Motel" Construction. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10022gt.tif
 Annadorf Motel???. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10038gt.tif
Annadorf In The Snow. (1944 ca)

Where Are The Builders Today?

Major Smillie survived the European Theater of Operations during 21½ months of service. He was honorably discharged March 21, 1946 at Fort McArthur, CA. A civil engineer, Mr. Smillie became involved in the development of the Victor Valley area after the war.

Mrs. Smillie and son, Robert, currently reside in Apple Valley. Son, Bill Smillie recently retired from service to the County of San Bernardino, Special Districts. He managed a number of domestic water districts and several waste water districts from Los Angeles County line to Yucca Valley. Mr Smillie and his wife, Carol reside in Phelan.

Sgt. Walter Whitney was transferred to several posts and finally ended his service in Honolulu, Hawaii. His interviewer detected some irony in his story. He had returned to the “German Village” for training in street fighting and expected to stay with Major Smiflie’s group

when they left which did not happen.

Why???

When questioned why Army Ordinance constructed the “German Village” training facility, he chuckled and said, “that’s a good question!” Then he noted that all of the’ trades working on the project were older experienced tradesmen. Sgt. Whitney said “our company were journeymen before we entered the service.” “Our group was put together by Major Smillie in Aberdeen, Maryland. He wanted experienced, older men.” Sgt. Whitney returned to Middleton, Wisconsin after the war and remained there.

Thanks!

Before closing this story, I wish to thank my wife, Jody, for her time and effort spent in research and interviews with Mrs. Betty Smillie and Walter Whitney. Our thanks also to Doug Millburn of the USFS, Congressman Jerry Lewis’ staffs in Redlands and Washington, D.C.. Army Center of Military History, Washington D.C., Dr. Gordon, Fort Belvoir, Va., Bill Doty, National Federal Records Center, Laguna Niguel, Mr. Henry Grace, USFS retired, Sonora, CA. and Mrs. Dean Rowe, USFS retired, Tulsa. OK.

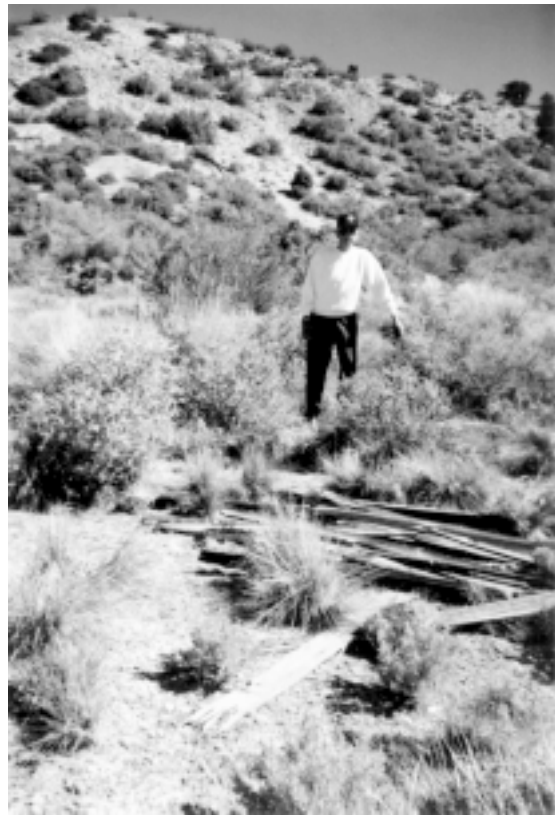
Most Of It Is Gone!

And a final closing comment. Much of the German Village was demolished and vandalized after 1945. In 1957 the area was burned by an uncontrolled forest fire that destroyed the remnants of the facility. All that remains now is the scrapbook given to Major

Smillie with its wonderful pictures. The German Village of ANNADORF is a true ghost town of another time.

Annadorf Revisited!

In May 2001 Pat and Harry Krig and Jody and John Lovett revisited the site of Annadorf. Not much of the "German village" was to be found. They found a few dry rotted boards and a few pieces of metal, but the memory of those that successfully trained there were not forgotten. They won the battle in Europe those many years ago!



Pat Krig Collection m10050gt.tif
John Lovett Pointing At Annadorf Remains.
(May 2001)



Pat Krig Collection m10049gt.tif
Harry Krig, John Lovett & Jody Lovett At The
Annadorf Site. (May 2001)



Pat Krig Collection m10048gt.tif
Harry Krig At The Annadorf Site. (May 2001)



Pat Krig Collection m10048gt.tif
Harry Krig At An Annadorf Gun Emplacement
Location. (May 2001)



Pat Krig Collection m10054gt.tif
Harry Krig Located An Old Stove
At The Annadorf Site. (May 2001)

I thank John Lovett for permission to use his story of the "German village" of Annadorf, which originally appeared in the April 1, 1999 issue of the Mountaineer-Progress newspaper. John and his spouse, Jody, have been frequent contributors to the pages of the Mountaineer-Progress.

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Bibliography

Mountaineer-Progress, April 1, 1999, by John Lovett



Pat Krig Collection m10055gt.tif
Annadorf Dump Site. (May 2001)

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