

# Charles Camp, 'Man With the Golden Heart' Press, Military Superiors Praise His Vo

## Chattanooga Soldier Serves at Karlsruhe

By LOWELL LEHMAN

A young Chattanooga soldier who knows firsthand what kindness means when you are raised in an orphanage, has been dubbed "the man with the golden heart" by nearly 200 children in a home for underprivileged youngsters, near Karlsruhe, Germany.

Pfc. Charles W. Camp, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Camp, 2312 Wilder St., has received extensive praise in the German press and from his military superiors for conceiving and executing the idea of "Operation Stadtkinderheim," which provided the needy youngsters with about \$4,000 worth of food, clothing, toys and cash.

The voluntary gesture of American friendship for the orphan children, according to one German reporter proved "you can find a good heart . . . under an American uniform."

Camp, raised in part for nine years in Bonny Oaks School here, has always had a soft spot in his heart for children, according to his mother. Youth activities were among his strongest interests as a student at Tyner High School and Carson-Newman College.

He was inducted in the Army in April, 1955, after completing one year at Carson-Newman. After basic training, Camp, now a private first class, was stationed at Karlsruhe.

### PLIGHT LEARNED

Learning of the plight of the orphans, Camp discussed his idea to help them with other members of the Historical Division detachment in Karlsruhe. The men visited the Municipal Children and Babies Home (as its title reads translated into English) and discussed the project with Oberin Schmid, the superintendent.

The men were convinced of the needs of the school, and sought and received approval from Col. Richard L. Pooley, commander of the Karlsruhe sub-area.

During late July, the 20-year-old Chattanooga and his confederates campaigned among their fellow American soldiers and their families living in "Paul Revere Village," the U. S. settlement area. All means were used: posters, camp publications, pulpits of both Catholic and Protestant churches, and a message from Col. Pooley urging support of the voluntary enterprise.

Financial assistance was sought directly from members of the 44th Finance, 3rd Medical Dispensary, Historical Division, 548th Army Postal Unit, and the 7809 Army Unit.

help from transportation units stationed in Karlsruhe. Despite cold, damp weather, "Paul Revere Village" citizens responded



**FRIENDLY ORPHAN**—This little girl, one of 190 orphans aided by Pfc. Charles W. Camp's project at Karlsruhe, Germany, poses with her benefactor.

them well without speaking the German language."

Another local reporter wrote in a newspaper article:

"This friendly and voluntary gesture from the American soldiers shall not be forgotten. One could say in this case that it has 'lasting value'."

The headline on one article dubbed Camp "the man with the golden heart."

It is understood that other collections may be taken to aid the orphanage.

### PRESS PRAISE

In addition to praise for the move from the German press, Col. Pooley, who witnessed the operation, was quoted as having said:

"Many unpleasant incidents have happened in the past with American soldiers. Fortunately enough, not in Karlsruhe. These incidents caused by individuals put us all on a bad spot. But what has happened here today was the deed of average Americans who started this operation on account of their spare time and hearts of gold."

the city of Karlsruhe issued letters of special thanks, signed by Mayor Gutenkunst. Camp was presented a book containing a historical



**'THANK YOU'**—This German tot thanks his American GI friends for bringing him new clothes, toys, food and some money to help run the Municipal Orphans and Babies Home at Karlsruhe, Germany.