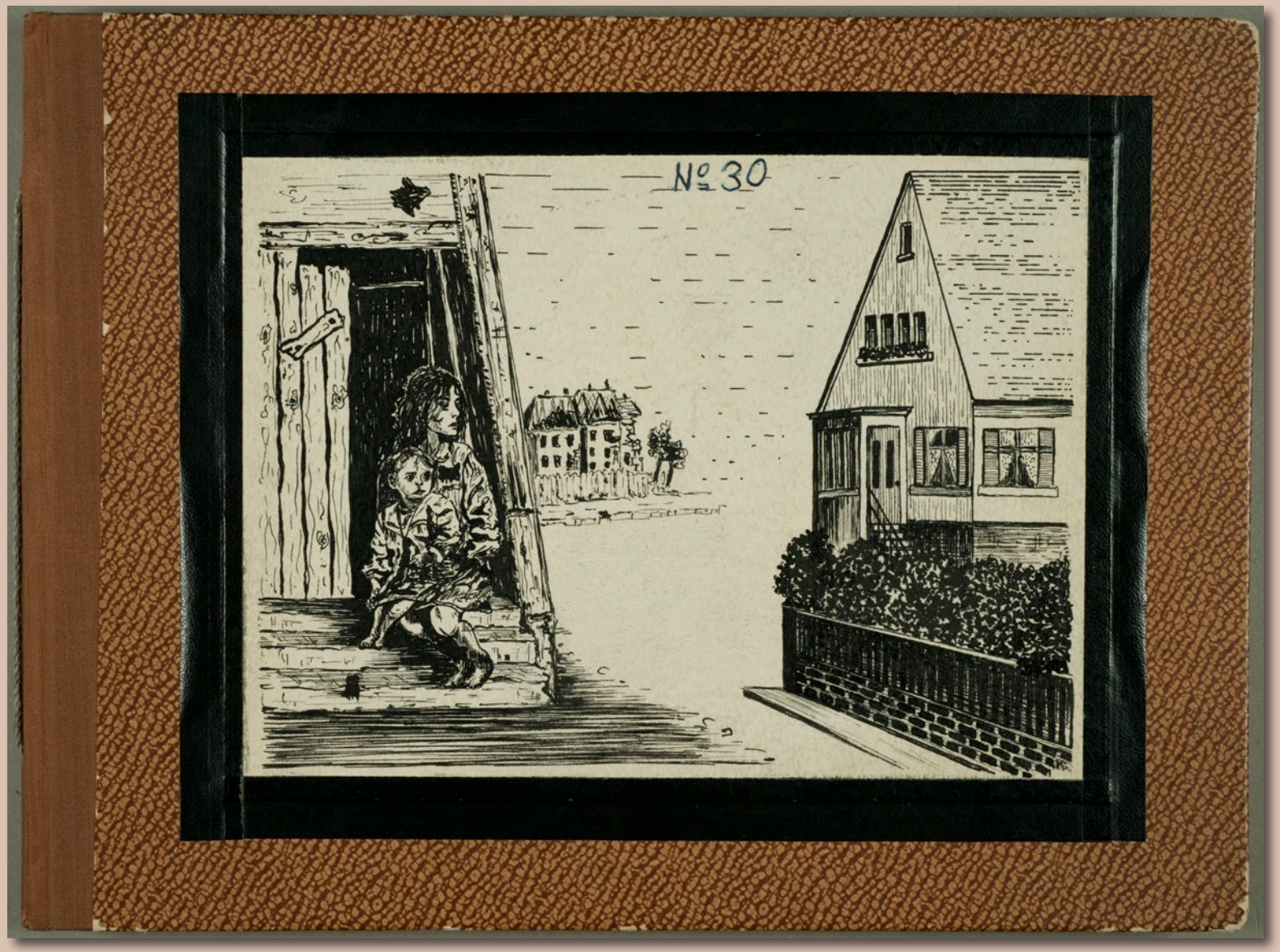
Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949

Leben in der Kellerwohnung

Fotoalbum von Notunterkünften der Nachkriegszeit in Heilbronn zur Einwerbung von Spenden (vermutlich in den USA) für den Bau einer Siedlung von 52 Einfachsthäusern, mit Projektbeschreibung.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

In the material and mental chàos of the early postwar years fundamental civic common sense and social justice were often overlooked. Decisions usually favored spectacular expedients; all in all "laissez-faire" was the strongest force. The time has come to make a considered appraisal of our reconstruction and to fill in forthwith the gaps we have left in the masonry.

Let us look at the case of the cellar dwellers.

In the first place the least damaged cities had the necessary manpower, tools, materials and tax income to begin immediately to rebuild. Their progress has been in some cases remarkable — and greatly praised. Worse damaged cities had lost much of their population and their industries had to go elsewhere. They are only now able to start at the point where others began in 1945.

In the second place it has been the same way with individuals. Certain fortunate ones and other unscrupulous ones have been in a position to reconstruct their business and their homes quickly and even magnificently.

But suppose one had the double misfortune to be bombed out of house and home in a city like Heilbronn (which was 70% destroyed) and also to be a little man or a handicapped man who could not possibly by his own efforts rebuild his fortunes. Then he probably could not find any better dwelling than the cellar of a bombed out house or some kind of a bunker.

Today 1,200 adults and 450 children live in such places in Heilbronn. There is not one bathroom for the whole lot and not more than one flushing toilet per 20 families.

It may well be said that their fellow citizens should have, and could have, relieved their lot, but the fact is that up to this time they have not done so.

If we act now they will be impelled to do their share and we will have set a durable example for thoughtful Germans to ponder upon.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949

$ DM $ DM $ DM $ DM $

The costs of financing are estimated as follows:

NET BUILDING COSTS:		
52 units at DM 8,550 each	DM	444,600
IMPROVEMENTS:		
1. Water, gas, etc., connections	DM	10,000
2. Grading and street improvements	DM	10,000
	DM	20,000
ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES:		
1. Fee for building permit, etc.	DM	2,000
2. Architectural, engineering and building supervision (fees = 4% of DM 470,000)	DM	18,800
3. Administration costs (2% of DM 470,000)	DM	9,400
4. Mortgages, appraising and interests	DM	4,800
	DM	35,000
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	DM	499,600

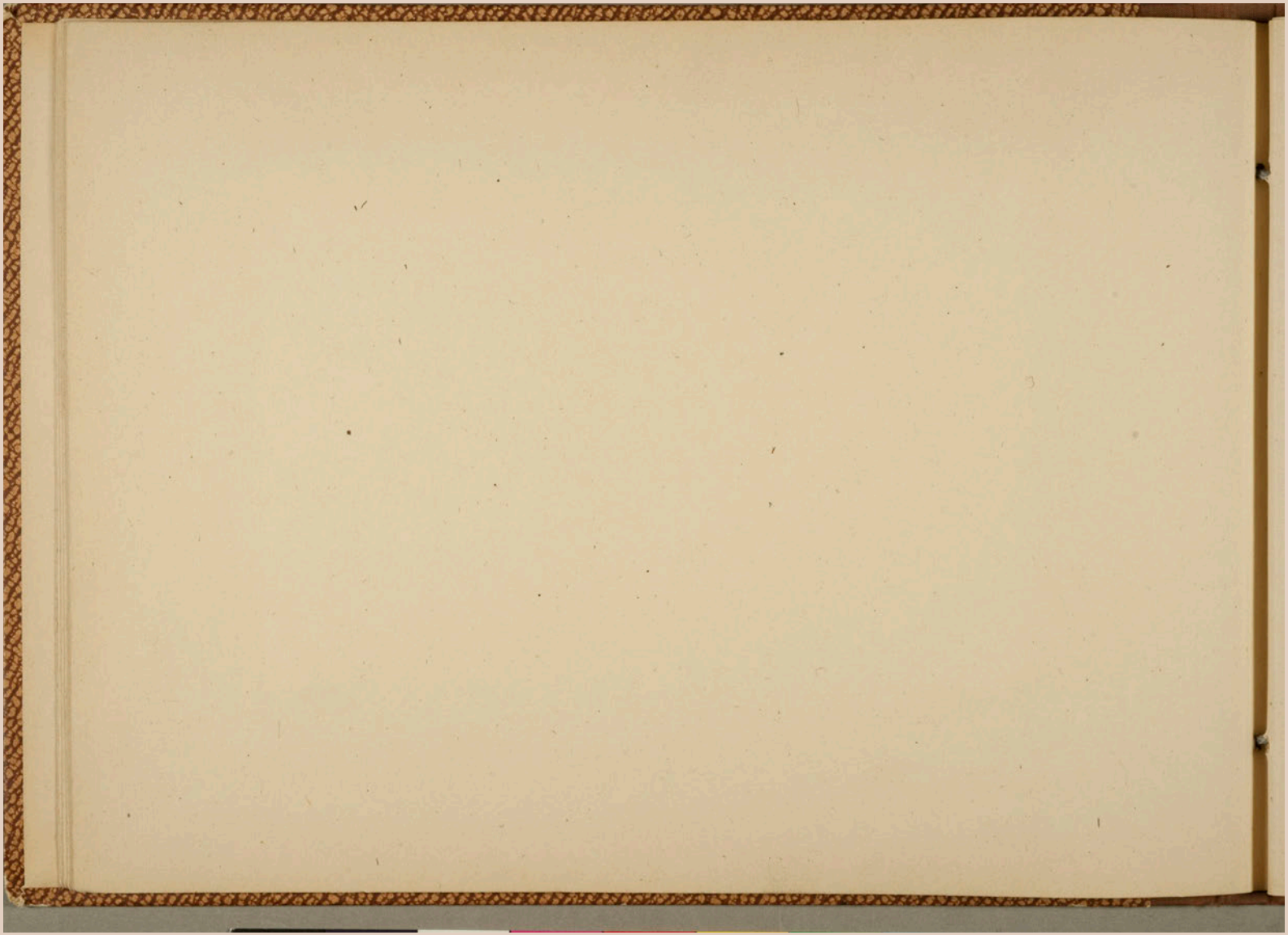
FINANCING

1. First mortgage (appr. 44%)	DM	231,600
2. LANDESKREDITANSTALT credit 52 units at DM 3,230 each	DM	168,000
3. Basic capital (amount of donation)	DM	100,000
GRAND TOTAL (as above)	DM	499,600

The LandesKreditanstalt named above is the source of State building subsidy funds. These are non-interest-bearing loans. They have no due date and it is anticipated that they will eventually be cancelled, that is, considered outright donations.

The rent, therefore, will be based upon the first mortgage. It will not exceed DM 30, which is within the reach of all, except welfare cases.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949

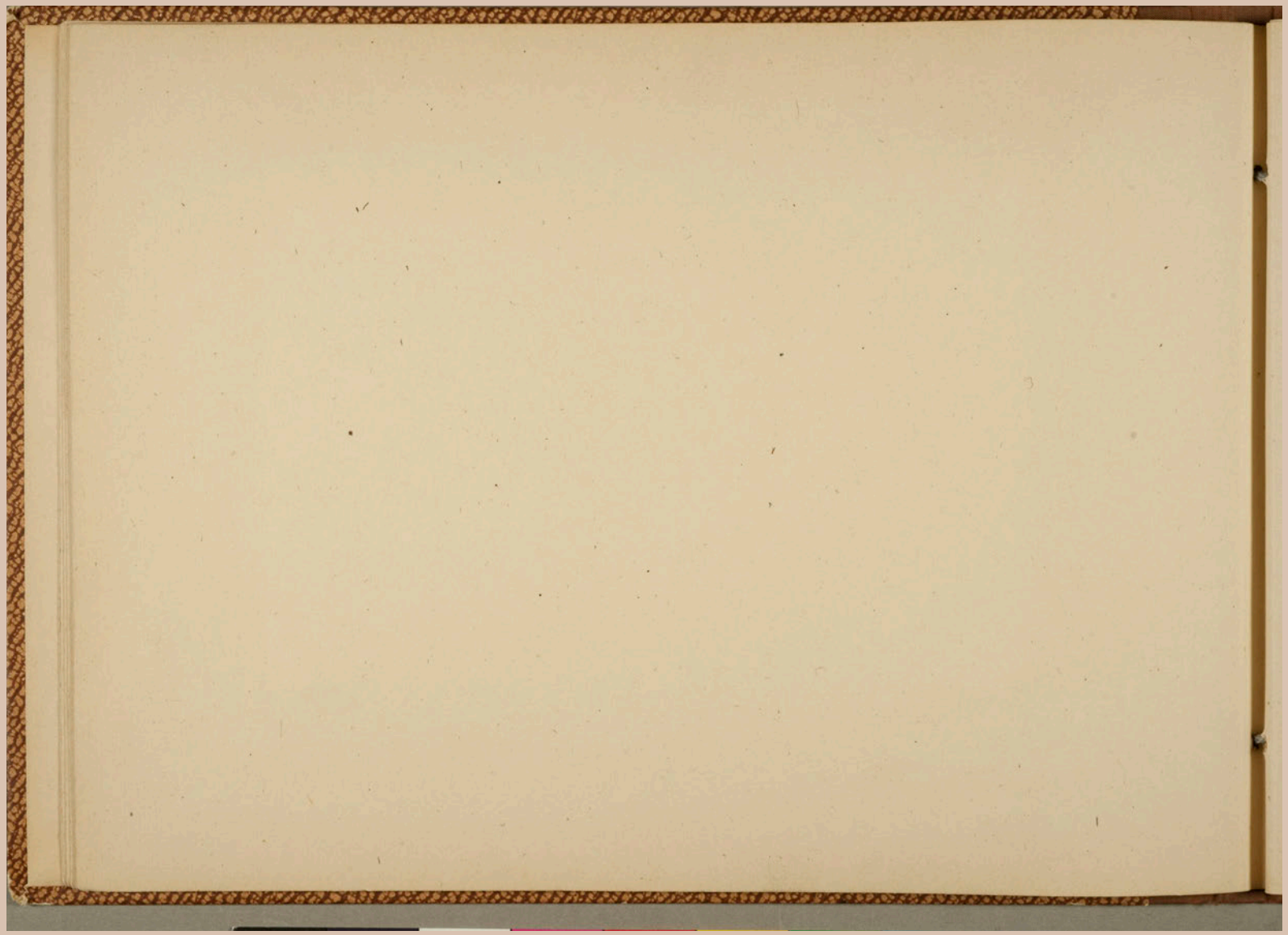


The Cellar Dwellers

KLEIN – construction worker, makes about DM 130 a month. Refugee from the Eastern Zone. One main room (in foreground) where family cooks and sleeps. Small room in background is wide enough to hold a bed – but children must climb over bedframe to get in. Children are aged 11, 9 and 1½ years; family has lived here for 2 years. Toilet is a hole in the ground outside. No bathing facilities.

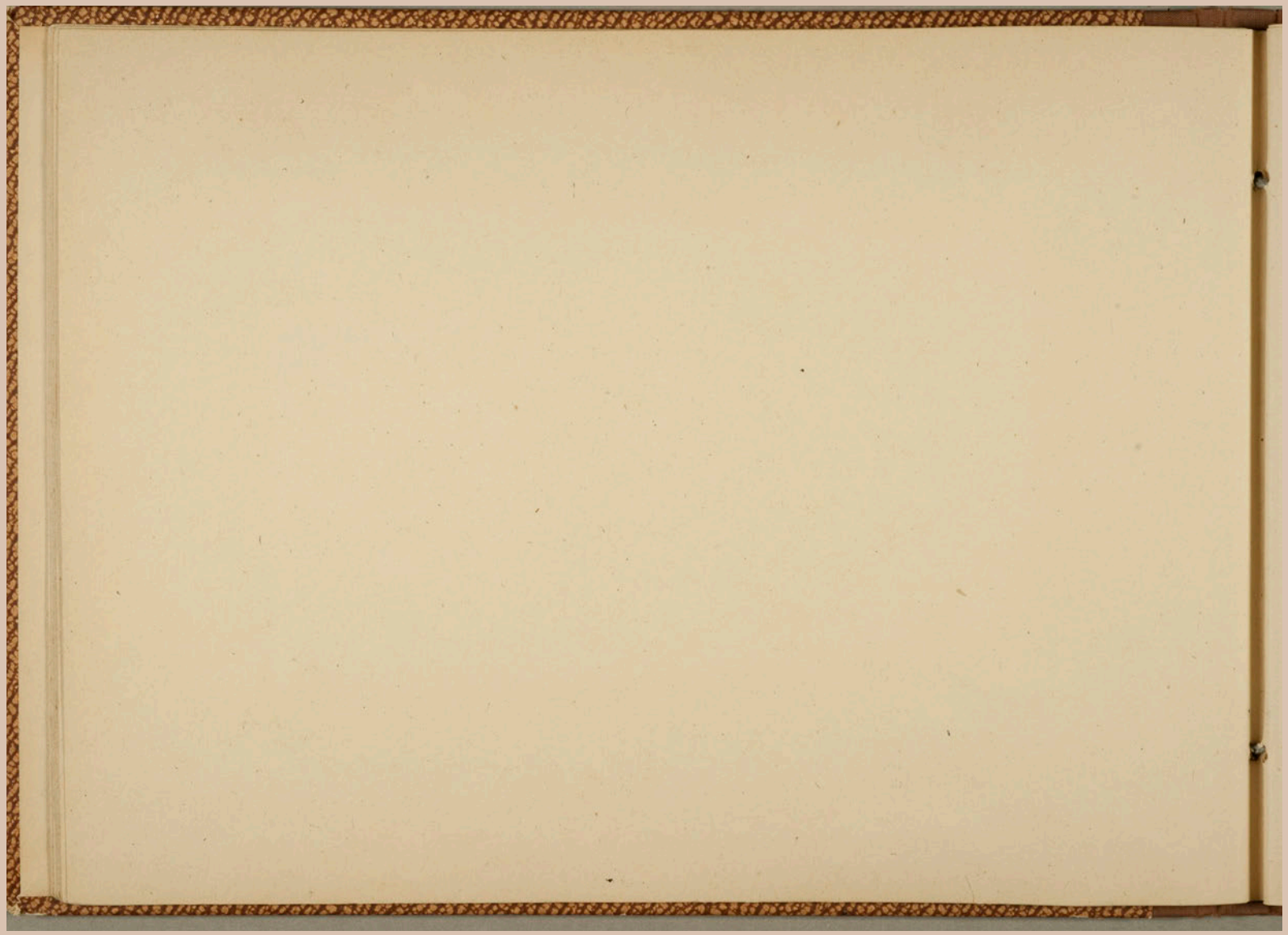
WIELAND - presently unemployed, receives DM 29 weekly for 5 children, aged from 6 to 13 years. Mother died shortly before X-mas. Picture shows view of boys' bedroom.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



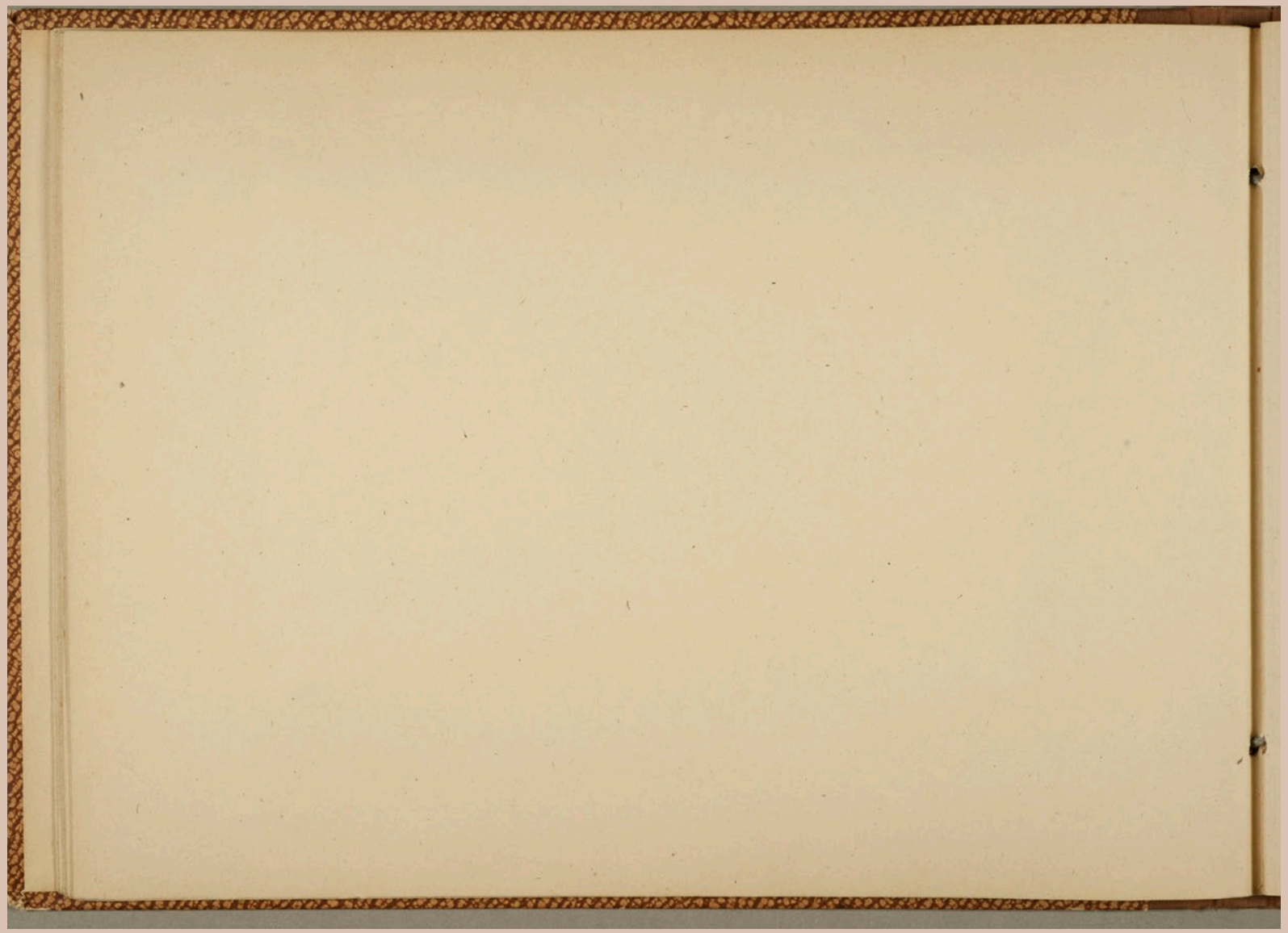
BRUNNET - unemployed presently, receives DM 32 weekly, three children 17 and 12 (girls), 11 (boy), also a brother of Herr Brunnet. These 6 people have lived here for three years, in 2 bedrooms and 1 Kitchen.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



KRÄMER – basement dwelling, 1 room used as Kitchen/livingroom. The beds are in a basement hallway with high vaulted ceiling. Widow with 2 children aged 10 and 6 years have been living here for 4 years. She works in spinning mill.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



TIEFENBACK – workman, makes about 150 DM monthly, pays DM 8 rent monthly. Three children aged 4, 2½ and 1 years. View of bed where two older children sleep.

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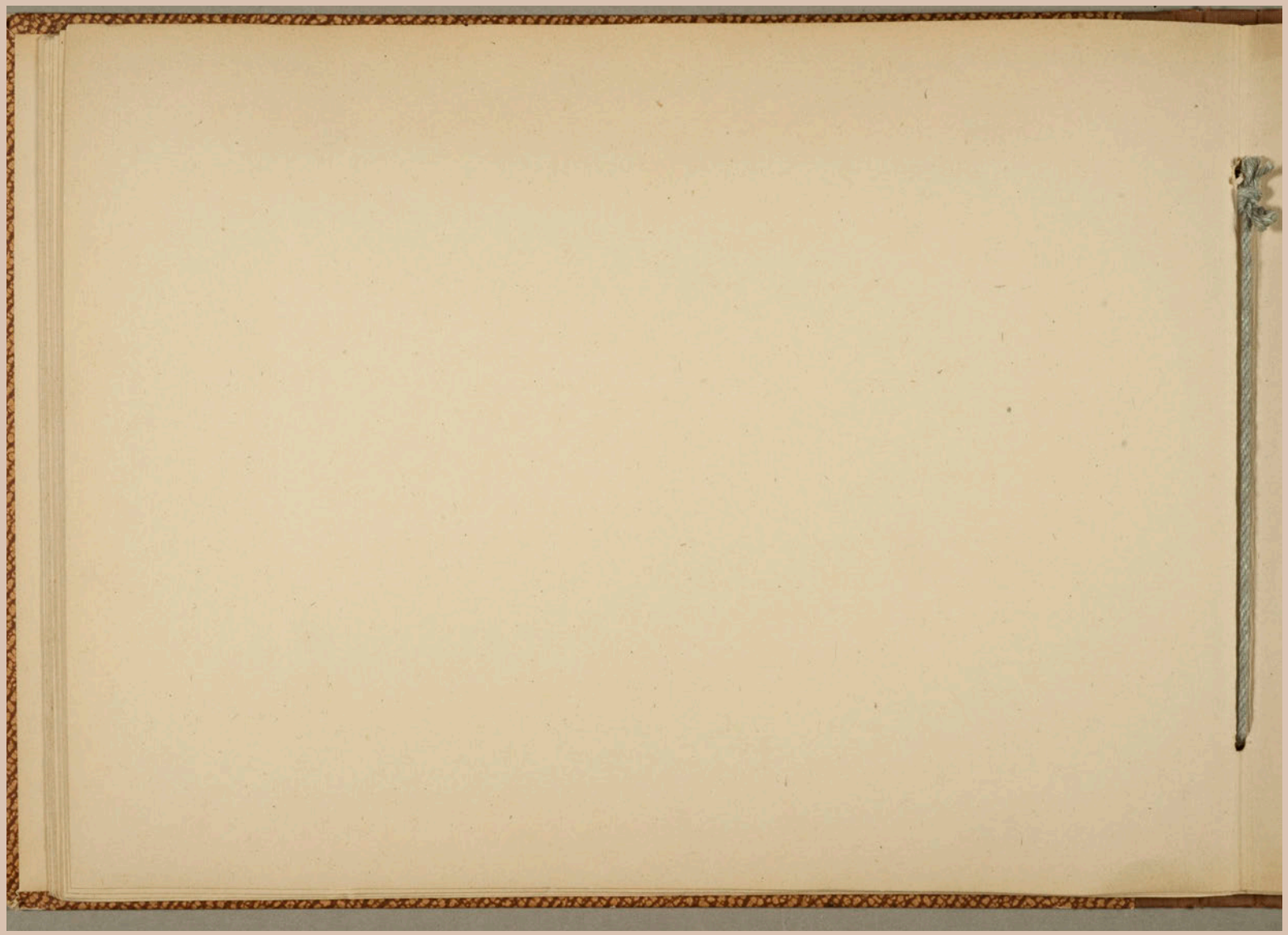
Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



FROHMÜLLER – mason, unemployed. Three children aged 13, 11 and 10. This shack holds 2 rooms. Family has lived here for 4 years. Father suffers from malaria, mother from kidney trouble.

-continued on following 2 pages

FROHMÜLLER (continued)

N 291/95 (1348)

View of the bedroom which is just large enough to hold these two beds where entire family (5 persons) sleeps.

FROHMÜLLER (continued)

View of the toilet.

LAUER - carpenter. Family with 3 children has been living here in the small space under the ramp, 2 rooms, for 4 years. Father makes about DM 150 a month, pays DM 4 rent monthly.

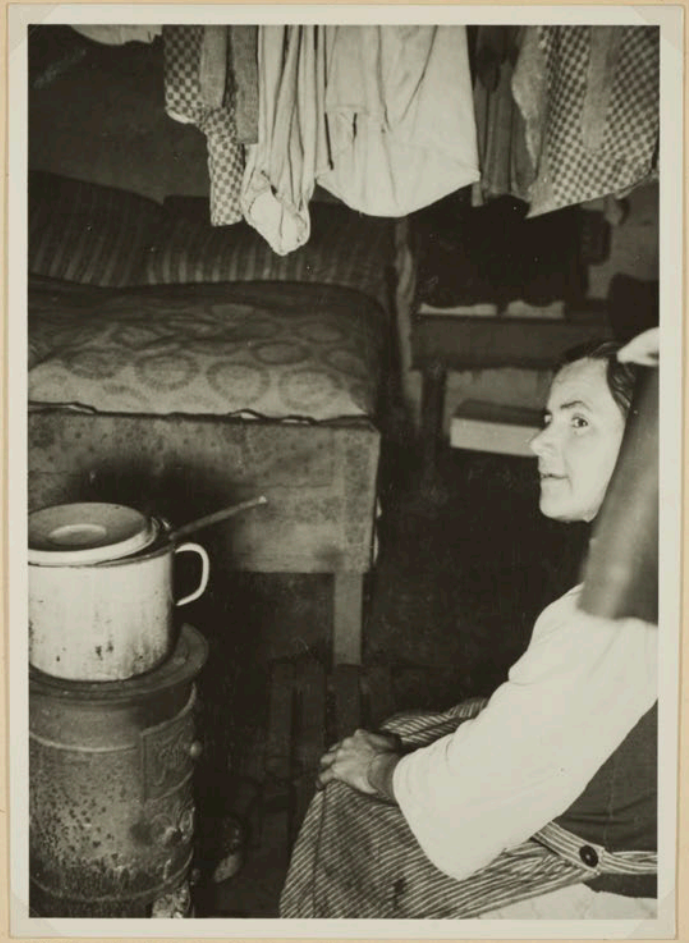
-continued on following 3 pages

LAUER (continued)

Combined Kitchen, living and bedroom. The entire family sleeps in this room. Stove which is also used for cooking is in middle of room.

-continued on following 2 pages

LAUER (continued)



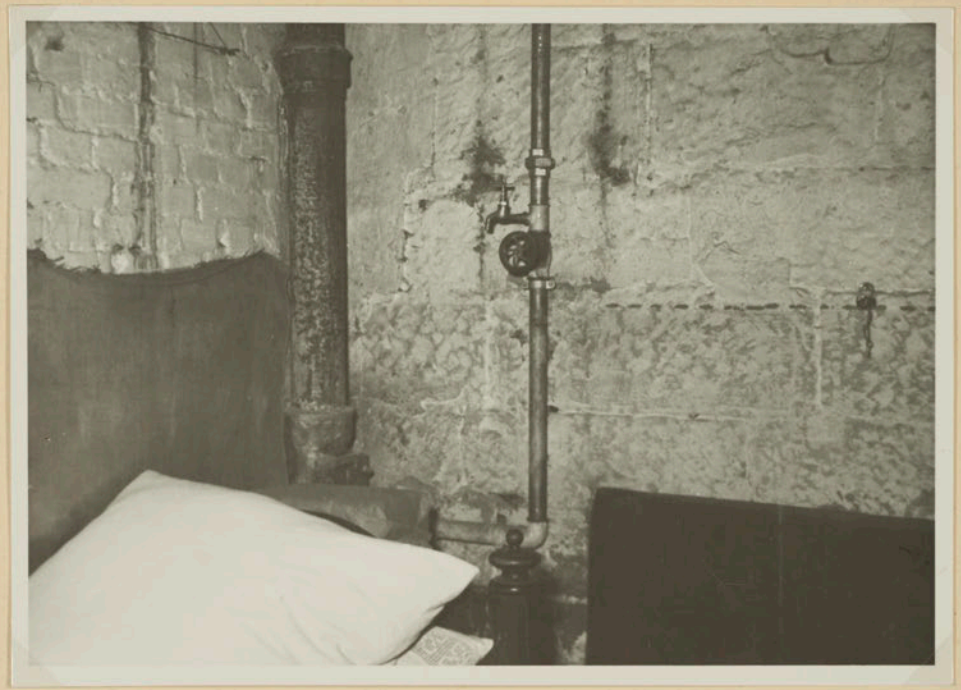
View of the 2 beds where 2 grown people and 3 children sleep.

LAUER (continued)

Small room used for storage and washing.
No toilet.

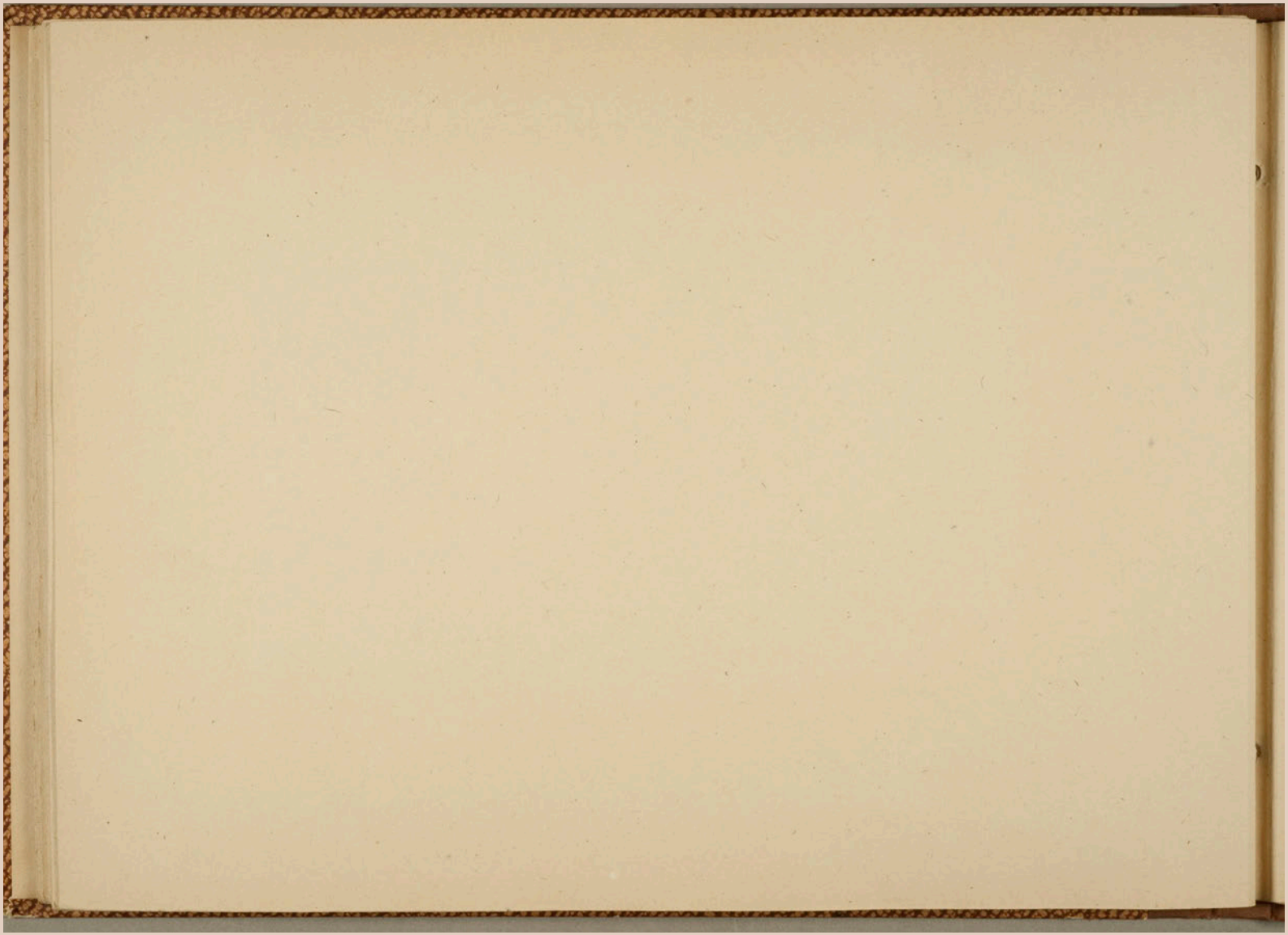
BRUNNET – presently unemployed because of illness.
A 2-room-basement where father, mother, daughter (pregnant) and son-in-law lived for 3 years to date.

BRUNNET (continued)



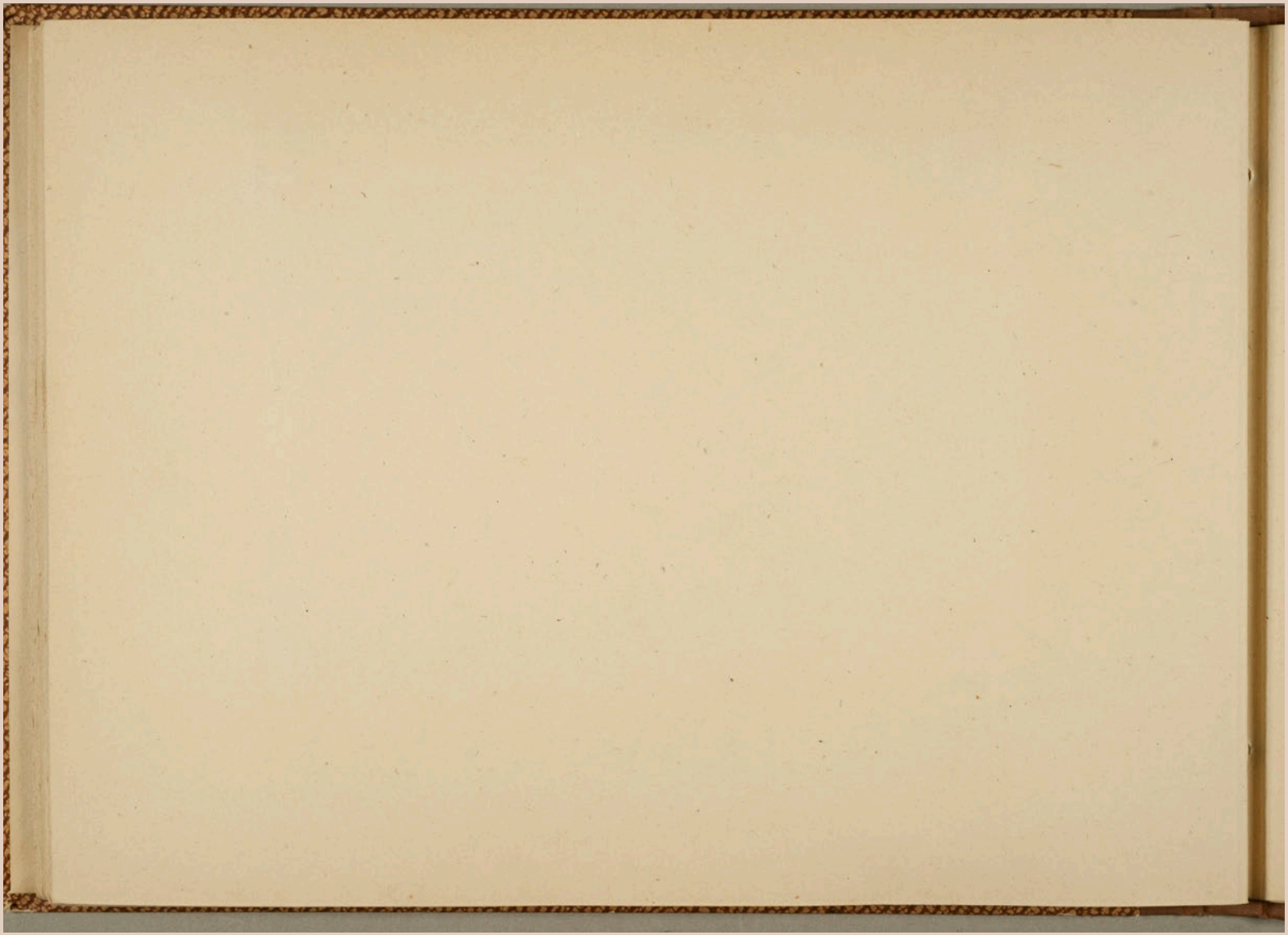
View of the second room.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



TIEFENBACH - workman, makes about DM 150 a month. Three children aged 13 (girl), 15 and 17 (boys), sleep with parents in these 3 beds. Have lived here for 4 years in the basement of a destroyed house.

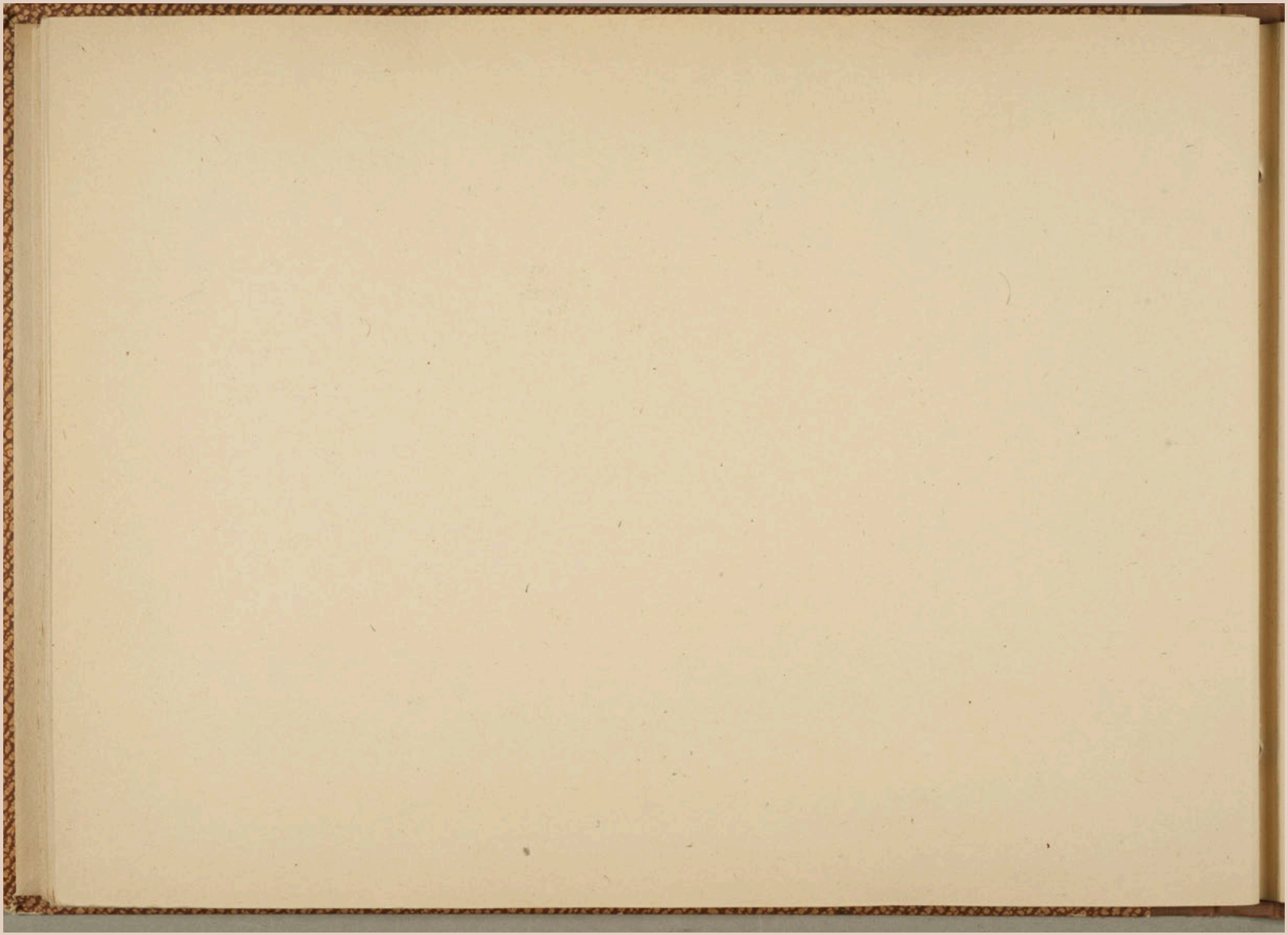
Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



VOLLMER - supervisor in a factory, makes about DM 250 monthly. Wife is blind. No children. Live in this one-room-apartment. Picture shows the entire width of this room. Have lived there for 5 years.

Owner is an independent, presently unemployed roof thatcher. Two children aged 12 and 11, all sleep in these double-beds in a room 5 sqm large. Picture had to be taken thru window. Live here for 4 years.

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949



The Goal

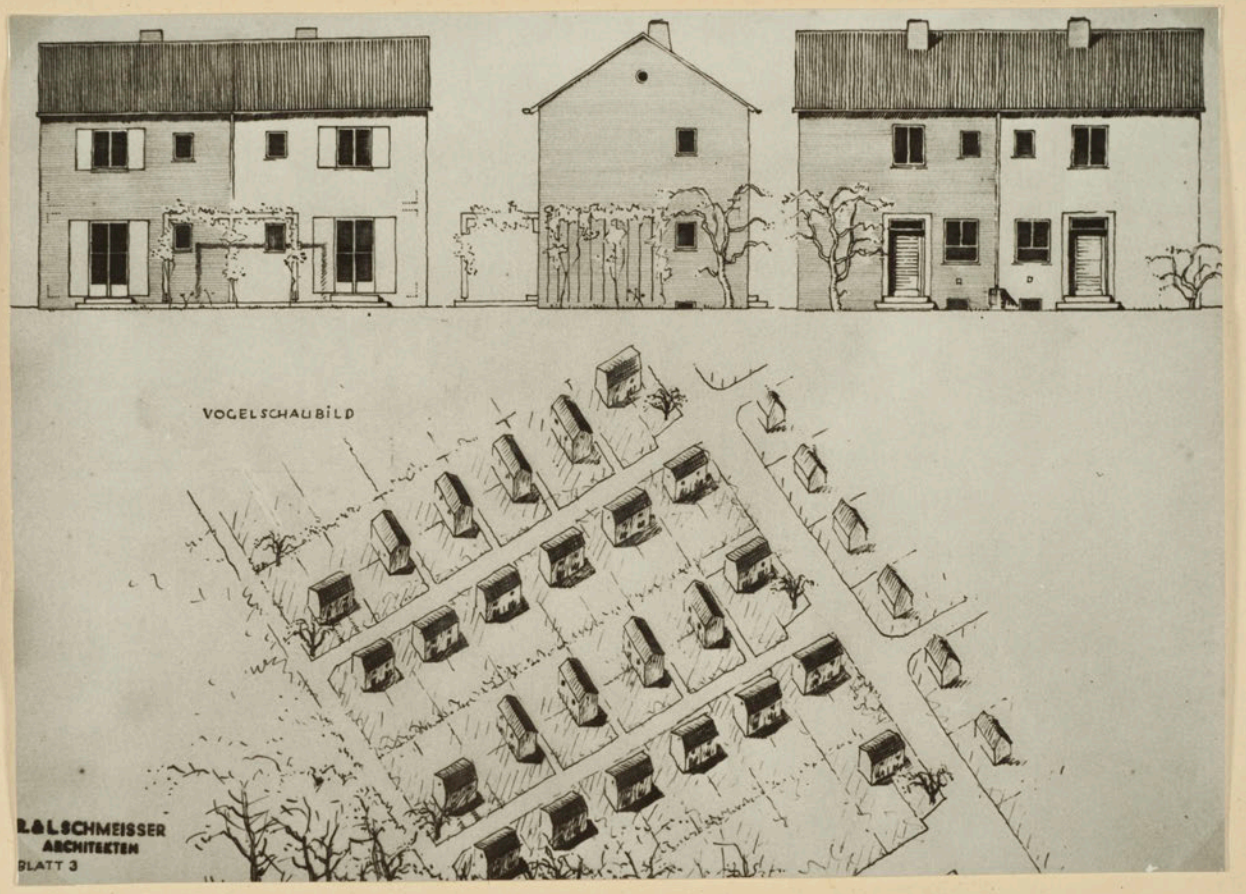
(see next pages)

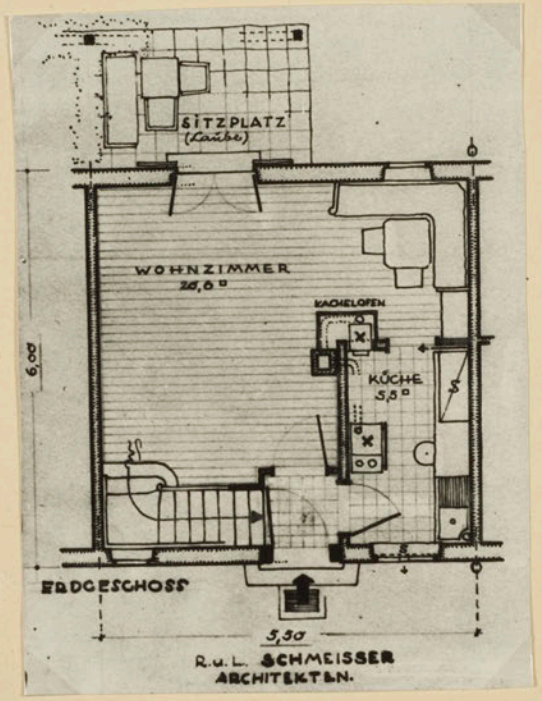
— not much to look down on perhaps .....

..... but wonderful to look up to —

FROM A CELLAR !

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949




SITZPLATZ
(Laube)
WOHNZIMMER
26,6 □
KACHELOFEN
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ERDGESCHOSS
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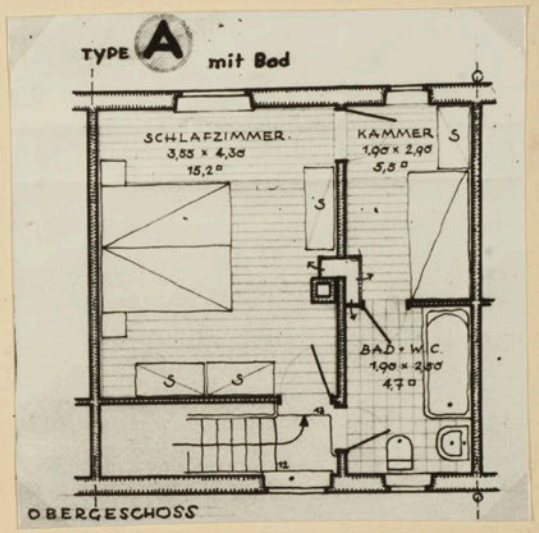
R.u.L. SCHMEISSER
ARCHITEKTEN.


TYPE A mit Bad
SCHLAFZIMMER
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15,2 □
KAMMER
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5,5 □
BAD + W.C.
1,90 × 2,50
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OBERGESCHOSS

Fotodokumentation der US-Militärregierung; um 1949