

# SPECIAL SERVICE

## PICTURE STORY

of

### OPENING

On Tuesday, 18 September, 1900 hours, the Palmgarten Service Club under the auspices of USFET Special Service and the ARC opened its doors to thousands of GIs in the Frankfurt Area. The opening of this famous European pleasure palace has indeed been a milestone in the recreational desires of all American pleasure seekers. Nowhere in all Europe is there a club for enlisted personnel that can cater in a similar manner to so many different desires and types of relaxation especially in so adequate a manner. For, indeed, the Palmgarten Club affords most everything in the way of entertainment, relaxation and pleasure.

### HISTORY

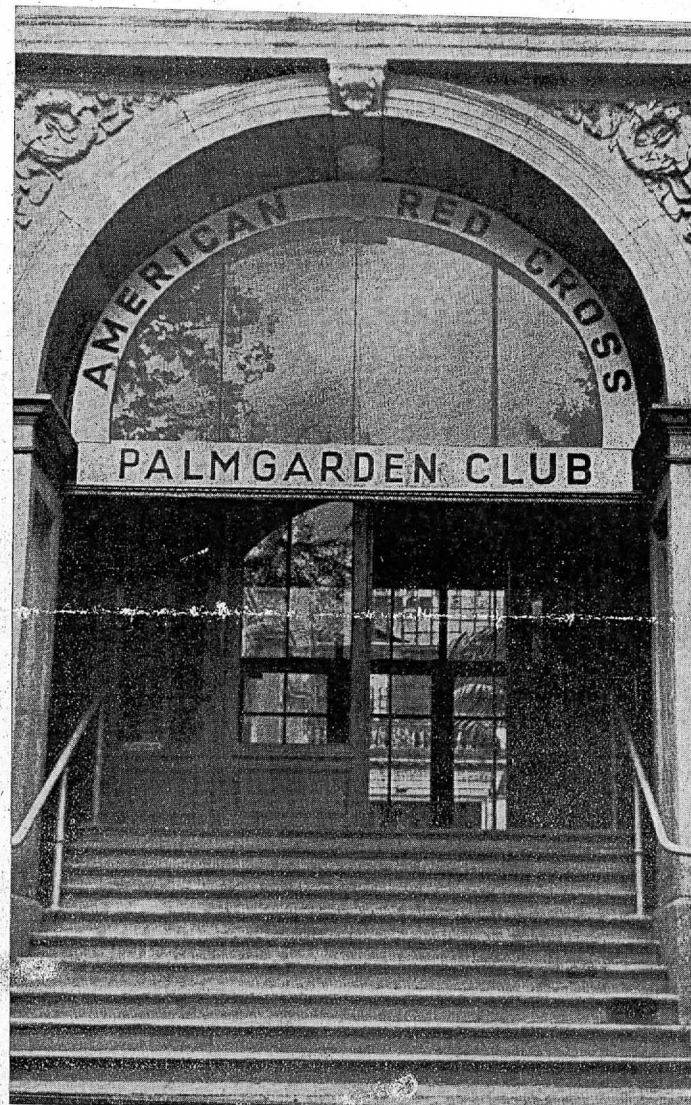
The Palmgarden of Frankfurt is shrouded in a rich history dating back many years and the fame of this magnificent pleasure ground has spread around the world. Travellers, on a trip through Germany, made the beautiful garden a first on their list of stop-overs. For, in reality, the character of Frankfurt was reflected in the Palmgarden.

### BEGUN 1868

The formerly independent city of Frankfurt, the most democratic of all German cities, was the domicile of great merchants and many wealthy people who could be seen, before the century, with their elaborate and distinguished carriages. Out of this environment the magnificent parks of the Palmgarden were developed in the years 1868—1871. The townspeople were justly proud of the new venture and spent lavishly for its development.

### FORMALLY OPENED IN 1871

Duke Adolf, of Nassau, had in those years, the most beautiful and most valuable plant houses and wintergardens in all Germany. The fame of his lovely plant-treasures was world wide and of course his gardens received



numerous visitors. The expenses he incurred due to theft, upkeep etc, were costly, so, in 1868 the Duke closed his gardens and set about to dispose of the collection of trees, plants, flowers and shrubs. The people of Frankfurt were quick to grasp the opportunity. They purchased the plant stock in its entirety, brought it to Frankfurt, and established the Palmgarden. Very soon buildings were erected, the most spec-

tacular being the huge palatial party house, which was formally opened on 16 March, 1871.

At the time of the formal opening the Palmgarden was rated the most beautiful in all Germany. With the exception of the mighty palms, the rest of the plant life including the exotic plants, climbing vines and beautiful flowers are arranged in a mass of exuberant splendor throughout the

grounds and green houses. In the plant houses were orchids valued at hundreds of dollars each.

### ANNUAL CARNIVAL

Thus in the great Palmgarden the whole of Frankfurt's social life was centered. In the summer season the people strolled through the park or listened to the music of the prominent Palmgarden band. Concerts were held during the winter season in the party house. On Saturdays and Sundays the rooms were reserved for festivals and dancing. The apex of the Frankfurt social life was reached each year by the carnival-balls which took place in the party house.

### ENLARGED

In the years 1880—1890 the gardens were enlarged ~~once more~~, and at this time various sports grounds were developed throughout the park. The latter included a bicycle track, a track for running, a football field, tennis courts and an icehockey field. The people of Frankfurt allocated much of their time for sports participation, and the sports events taking place in Palmgarden grew in size and were prominently recognized throughout Europe. Champions from all corners of the globe participated there, and the meets were highly respected by the sports writers of all the leading countries.

### ADDITION

Ten years ago the Grunenburgpark (Green Castle Park) was added, and shortly afterwards the Botanic Gardens were completed. The latter served especially as a place of instruction and was used by the Botanic faculty of the University.

During the recent war the beautiful party house was somewhat damaged, but through the combined efforts of USFET Special Service and the ARC repairs were made, and the building was restored to its former condition.

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# PALMGARDEN CLUB





## CURRENT

Dancing, which takes place in the beautiful spacious ballroom, is the highlight of each evening. Many top stage and variety shows are presented at the Club also in the ballroom, and a roomy balcony does much to alleviate congestion on the floor. Opening to the north of the ballroom is a door leading out into the lovely Palmgarden which is completely enclosed in a huge glass dome. The visitor is left breathless as he views the array of lovely plants and trees there. At the far end of the dome is a magnificent waterfall shrouded in a galaxy of colors.

## SNACK BAR

To the south of the ballroom is the snack bar with tables arranged on a balcony running the entire length of the building behind panels of glass. This, needless to say, is one of the most popular spots in the building. Beneath the snack bar, in the basement, is the cabaret which is also the scene of much entertainment and pleasure. Here one may guzzle cokes or beer and revel in the jovial atmosphere of this pleasure den.

## Schedule This Week

Friday, 5 October — Dancing  
 Saturday, 6 October — "Continental"  
 Monday, 8 October — Dancing  
 "OFF LIMITS" — G. I. show  
 Wednesday, 10 October — Dancing  
 Thursday, 11 October — Dancing.



## GAMES, MUSIC, LIBRARY

Various other rooms catering to varied desires are located throughout the building. The library is a very popular spot and contains a great number of the best books and current reading material. Many types of games are to be found in the game room. Music lovers will find more than enough to satisfy their desires in the music lounge, where a piano, radio, victrola and a limited supply of musical instruments are to be had for the asking.

## TENNIS

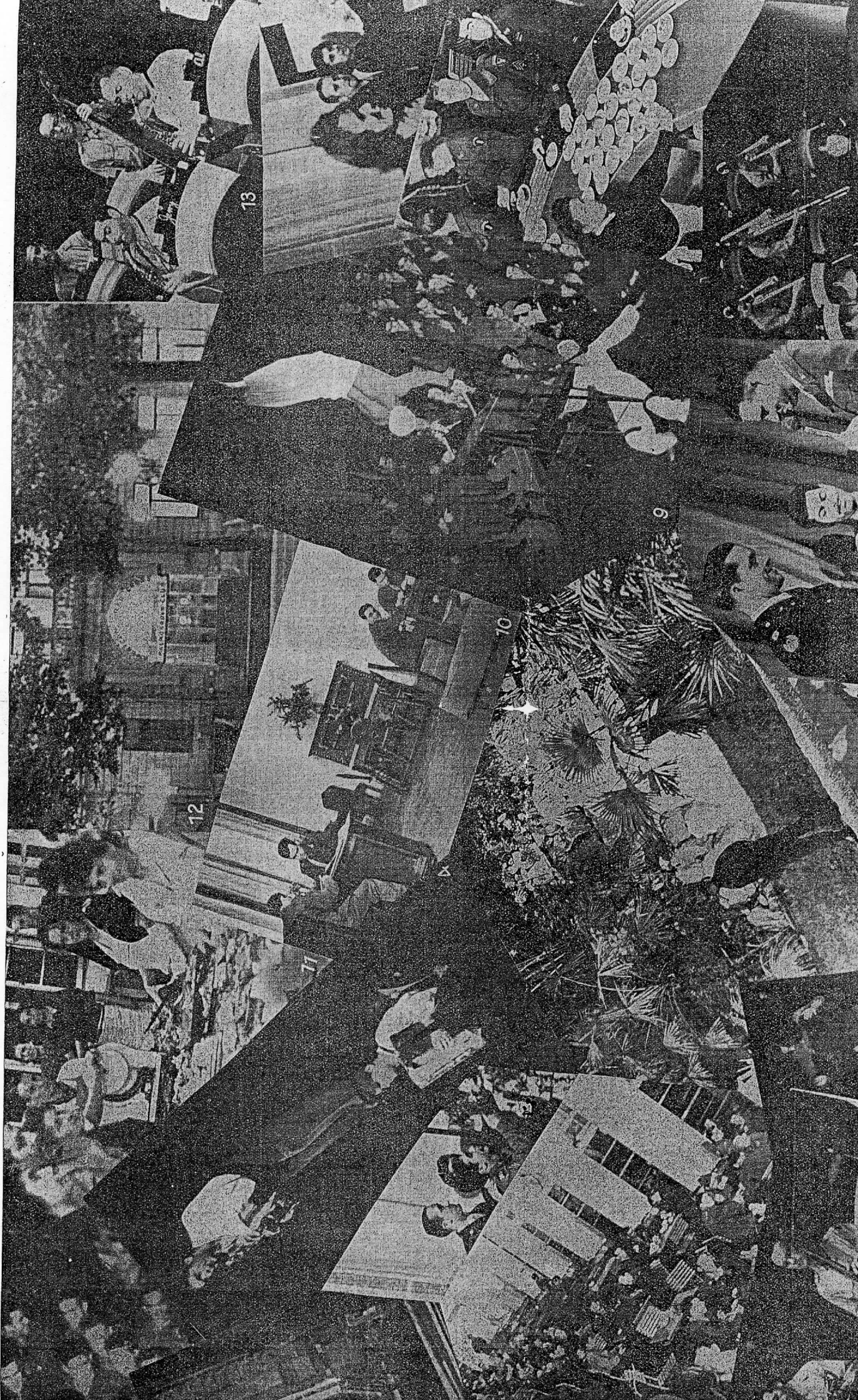
The tennis courts, located approximately 600 feet to the north of the party building, are among the finest in all Germany and have proved to be one of the most popular attractions at the Club.

## GARDENS

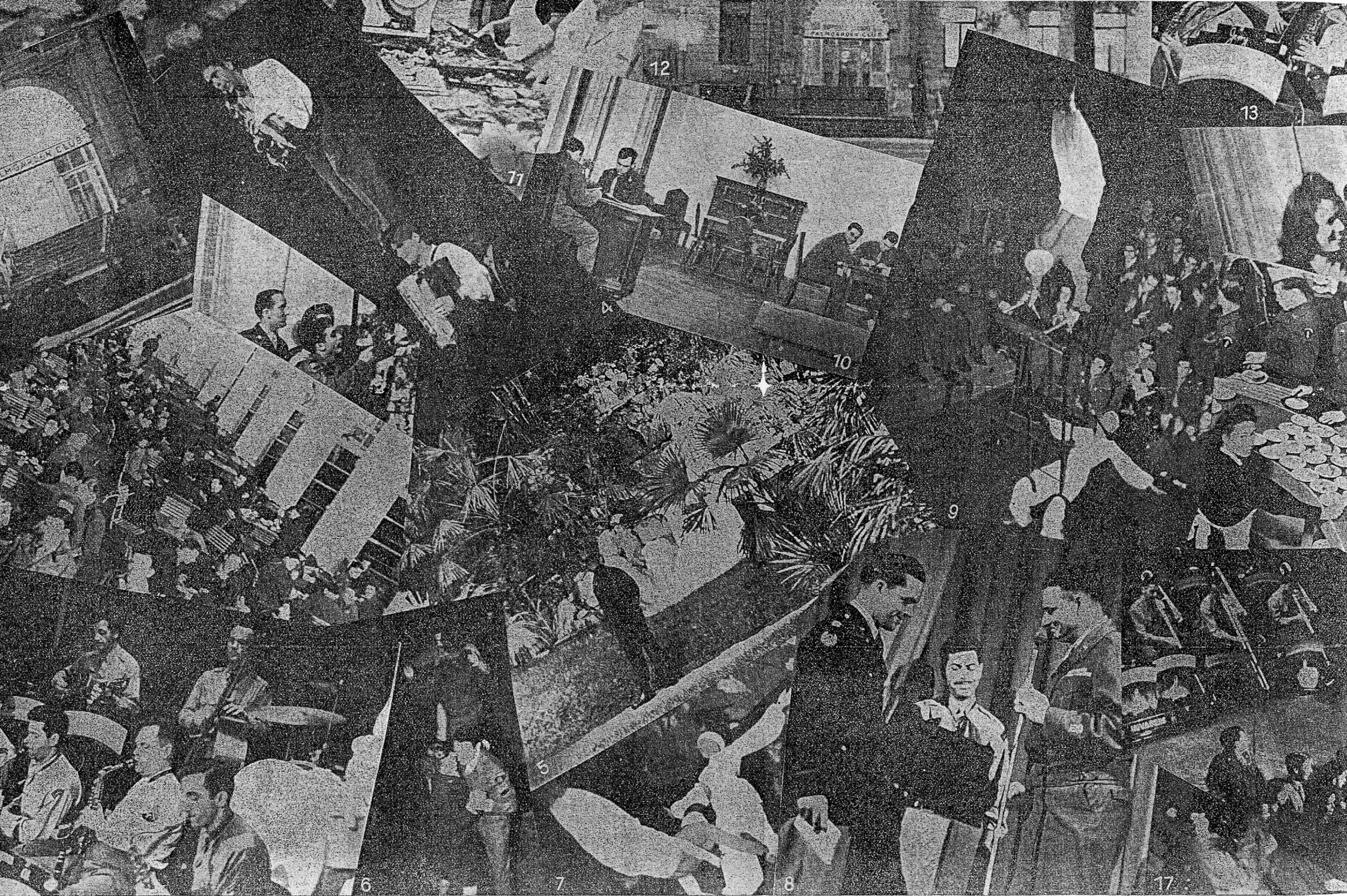
As for the beautiful grounds and gardens — words just can't describe them. One could spend the entire day amid the wonders of nature at the Palmgarden and never see it all. The green houses are filled with lovely plants collected from all the corners of the world. The gardens are ablaze with colors radiated from the thousands of flowers that grow there. It is truly a sight to behold. But in order to comprehend such grandeur you must see it yourself.



# THE PALMGARDEN CLUB







1 — INVADERS BAND  
2 — MAIN DINING ROOM  
3 — ENTRANCE TO PALMGARDEN

4 — ENTERTAINERS  
5 — INSIDE THE PALMGARDEN  
6 — DANCING COUPLES

7 — BRIG. GEN. BROWN PRESENTING  
PRIZE TO FIRST G. I. TO ENTER  
THE CLUB AS CAPT. I. JOHNSON

8 — ENTERTAINERS  
9 — READING AND WRITING ROOM  
10 — KITCHEN STAFF

11 — PALMGARDEN AS IT APPEARS  
FROM OUTSIDE  
12 — INVADERS BAND

13 — SNACK BAR  
14 — DANCING EXHIBITION (WAC and  
G. I.)