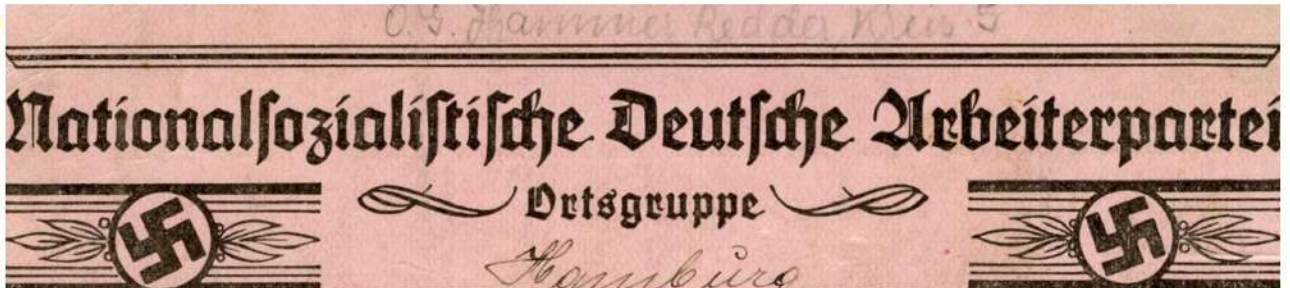


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The question: What is 'Hammer Redder'?

In your section 'The Many Lives of Alfred Kästner' on MTA you show some documents on which is written 'Hammer Redder'. (<http://www.mourningtheancient.com/kastner.htm>).



[Above: Detail of NSDAP membership card of Alfred Kästner from MTA. At the very top, the text 'Hammer Redder Kreis' ('Hammer Redder district') can be read in cursive script.]



[Above: The dues stamps show "Hammer Redder"]

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei
Gau Hamburg

Anhang

zur

Mitgliedskarte Nr. 7.358.923

für Pg.
Pgn.

Dr Alfred Kästner

Wohnung

Hammerland =

Straße
Platz

Nr.

143

Ortsgruppe

Hammer Redder

Eingetreten am

1. II. 40

19

Kreis

[Handwritten mark]

[Above: On the attachment to the NSDAP membership card we can read 'Ortsgruppe Hammer Redder' ('Location group Hammer Redder'). Alfred Kästner lives at 'Hammerlandstraße Nr. 143']

You wrote 'So now we know what 'Hammer Redder' means, or rather what it is. We still have no clue what exactly it means.'

Molly, you ask interesting questions. I'm a German, but I didn't know what 'Hammer Redder' meant either. 😊

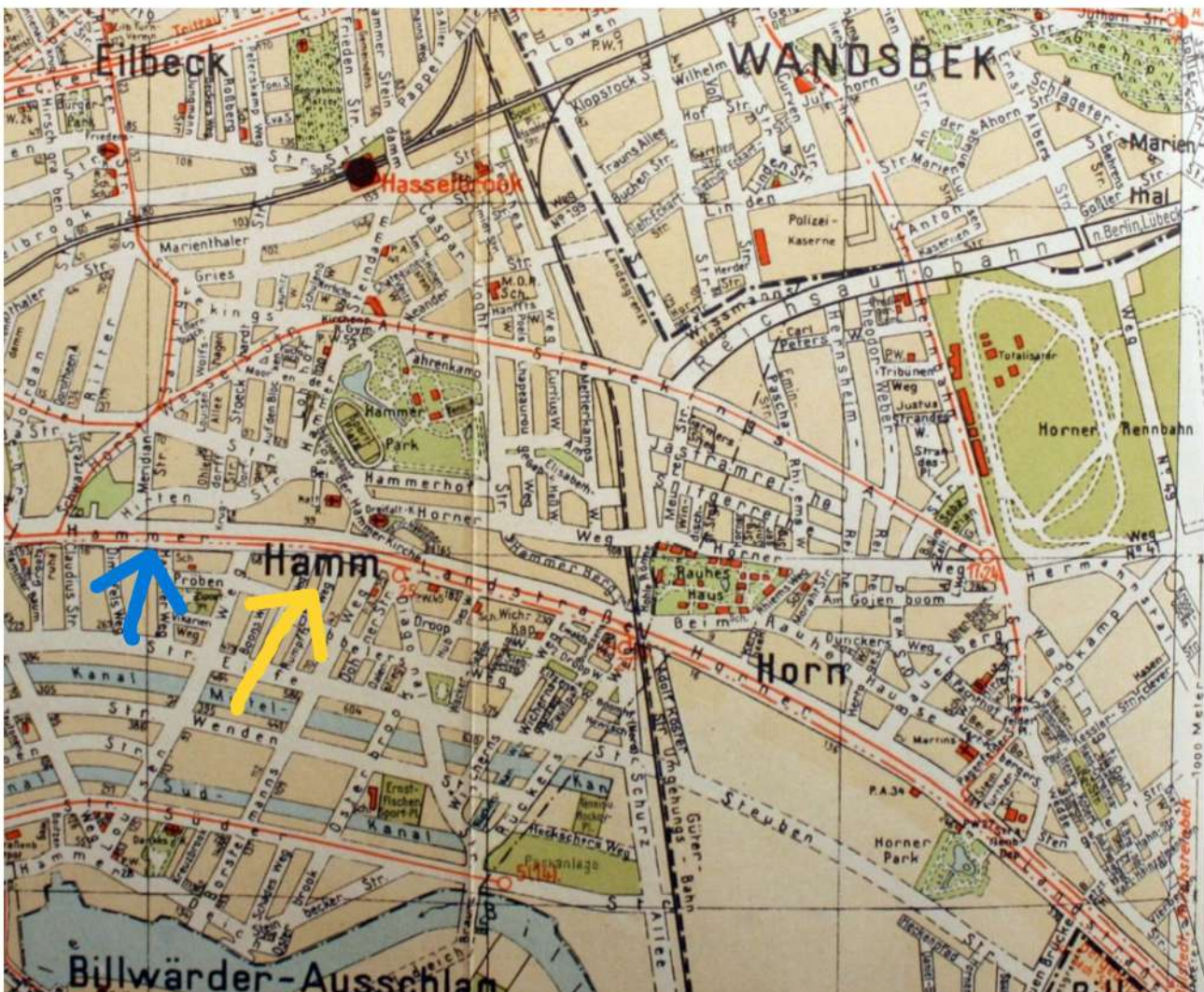
Therefore I did some research.

Explanation of 'Hammer'

The German word 'Hammer' normally means the tool 'Hammer' (English hammer). But not in this case. I assume for an English speaking person it's highly difficult to find the meaning intended here.

We know that Alfred Kästner lived in Hamburg. A district of Hamburg is called 'Hamm'. In the city map below the yellow arrow points to the district name 'Hamm'. Because of the name 'Hamm' in German we have the adjective 'Hammer'. Therefore in the district 'Hamm' we find:

- **Hammerlandstraße** ('Hammerland road') Please see the blue arrow in the city map below. This is the street where Alfred Kästner lived.
- **Hammer Park** (Hammer park)
- **Hammerhof**



[Above: Part of a city map of Hamburg from 1936. The yellow arrow points to the district 'Hamm'. Alfred Kästner lived in the 'Hammerlandstraße'. Please see the blue arrow. Above the street 'Hammerlandstraße' you can see a 'Horst-Wessel-Straße' because this is a city map from 1936.

You can find the map here: <https://www.archiv-hhnv.de/stadtmain/orf3004.htm>

You might wonder if the name 'Hamm' is somehow related to 'Hamburg'. (**Hamm** – **Hamburg**. Lets dig a little deeper.

The name Hamm is traced back to the Saxon words Ham, Hamme, Hemm or Hemme and is part of several place names north of the river Elbe. However, the meaning of 'Ham' has not been definitively established.

Possible meanings of 'Ham' are:

- forest
- land in a river bend
- damp river valley

In case of the district 'Hamm' forest seems to be correct. 'Hamm' was an Old Saxon settlement in a large forest area.

The North German city of Hamburg takes its name from the Hammaburg (Hamma castle). The Hammaburg was built in the 8th century as a Saxon noble residence. 'Ham' here refers to the settlement located at a bend in the river. The name element 'burg' is derived from the Germanic 'Burg', which can mean both 'fortified hill' and 'settlement'.

Explanation of 'Redder'

You might wonder about this: 'hammer' is an English word and 'redder' is an English word too. 'redder' in English is the comparative of red.

But in this case 'Redder' is a word in Northern German dialect. The term 'Redder' is primarily typical of the region of present-day Schleswig-Holstein (Northern Germany). Street names in Hamburg also contain the element 'Redder' (e.g., 'Reinbeker Redder').

The name 'Redder' comes from Low German and means 'path between two hedgerows'. In the 18th century, it was common practice for every field to be bordered by hedgerows (called 'Knicks' in the North German dialect) due to a law. As a result, paths were often bordered by hedgerows on both sides. These hedges along the paths also protected adjacent fields from passing livestock (e.g. cows). They prevented the cows from going into the fields.

A hedgerow (also called 'Knick', 'Knicke', 'Knicks', 'Över' or 'Öwer' in North German dialects) is a term for embankments, usually artificially constructed, covered with woody plants, earth, stone, or peat in Central Europe. They are widespread landscape-defining elements of the cultural landscape, serving as enclosures and boundary markers. The average height of an earthen embankment is about one meter, and the average width is about two meters.

In conclusion: A 'Redder' is therefore an agricultural connecting path between fields or farmsteads, which is lined on both sides by hedges. At the same time, they also serve as border markers.



[Above: A landscape in Northern Germany. Fields are surrounded by lines of hedgerows. These are not just hedges, these are 'Redder' (ways with hedgerows on both sides.)]

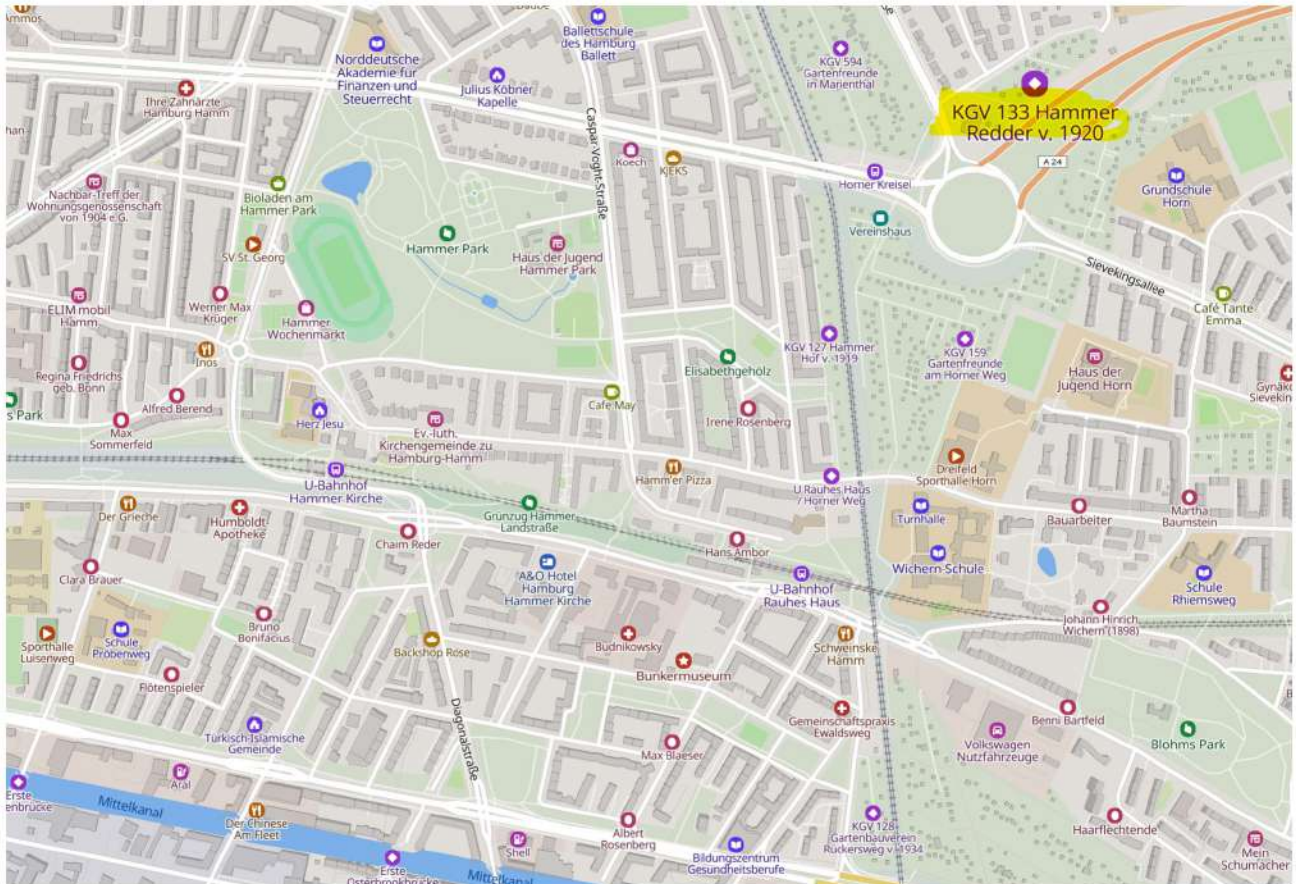


[Above: Inside a 'Redder'. On both sides of the small way are hedges.]

Explanation of 'Hammer Redder'

We now know what 'Hammer' means in this context. We also now know what a 'Redder' is. 'Hammer Redder' therefore roughly translates to: 'The hedge-lined path in the Hamm district of Hamburg'. The name reflects both the geographical location and the historical use of the path.

I searched for the term 'Hammer Redder' in the current city map of Hamburg. This is what I found:



[Above: This part of the city map of Hamburg shows the district 'Hamm' and the term 'KGV 133 Hammer Redder v. 1920']

You can find the map here: <https://mapcarta.com/de/W86503974>

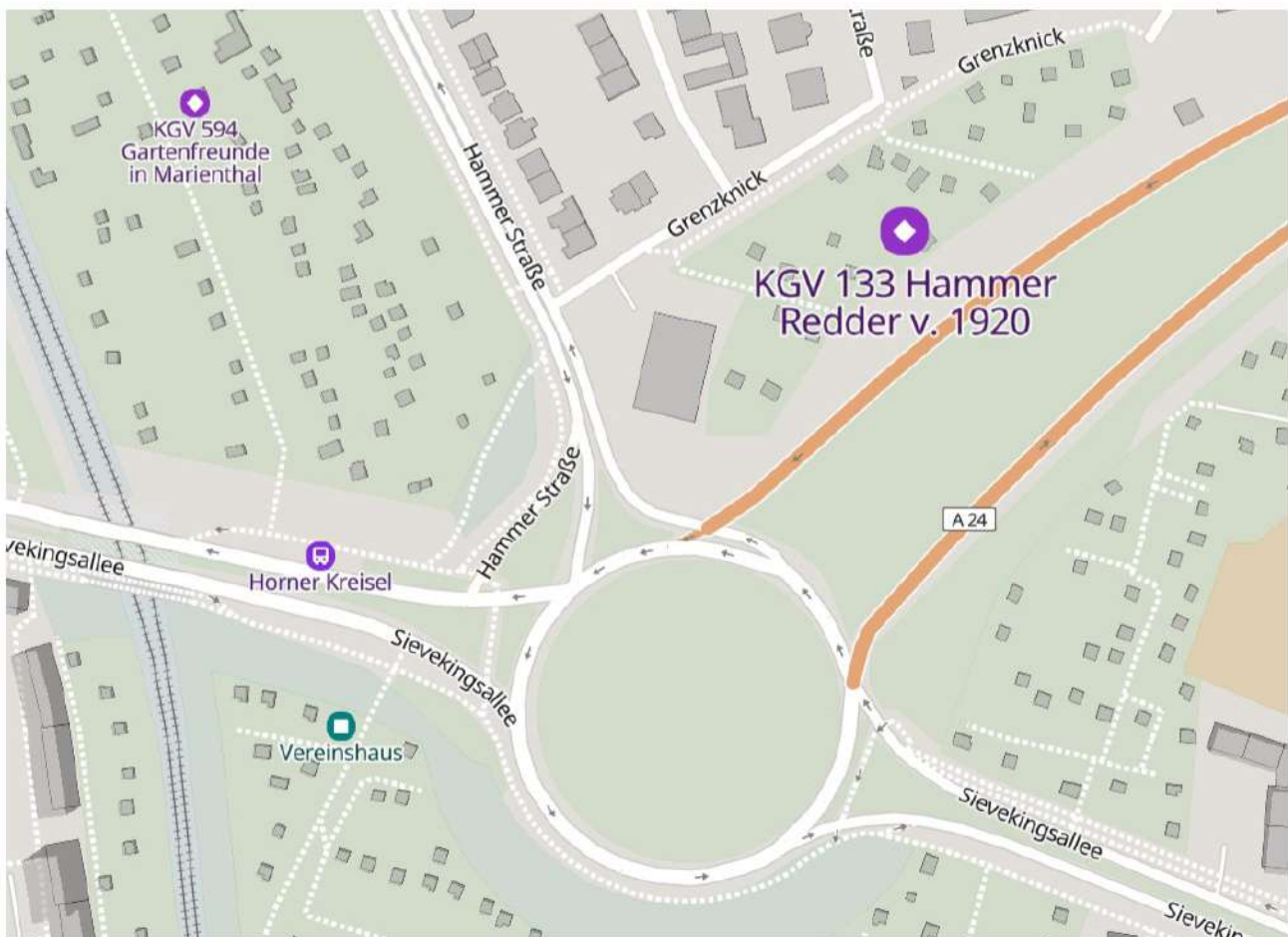
Explanation of 'KGV 133 Hammer Redder v. 1920':

The abbreviation 'KGV' means 'Kleingartenverein'. '133' is the number of this 'Kleingartenverein'. The name of the 'Kleingartenverein' is 'Hammer Redder von 1920' ('Hammer Redder from 1920').

This is the explanation of 'Kleingartenverein' in English from the internet:

A 'Kleingartenanlage' is a German term that refers to a community garden area or allotment garden site. It is a piece of land divided into small plots, each rented or leased by individuals or families. These plots are typically used for growing vegetables, fruits, flowers, and sometimes for leisure activities. A 'Kleingartenanlage' is usually organized by a local association, which sets rules about how the gardens can be used (for example, a

certain percentage must be cultivated with plants rather than just used for recreation). Small garden huts or sheds are often allowed, but permanent housing is not. The concept is especially popular in Germany and other European countries, where it provides city dwellers with access to green space and a way to grow their own food.



[Above: The area of the community garden area 'Hammer Redder from 1920' in detail.]

Above the community garden area 'Hammer Redder from 1920' is a street named 'Grenzknick'.

'Grenz' = 'Grenze' (border)

'Knick' in this context is North German dialect. In High German, however, it means 'bend', that something got bent.

From the chapter about 'Redder' we already know this:

A hedgerow (also called 'Knick' in North German dialects) is a term for embankments

My hypothesis was:

'Grenzknick' is a paraphrase for 'Redder'. The allotment garden association is named after the street on which it is located.

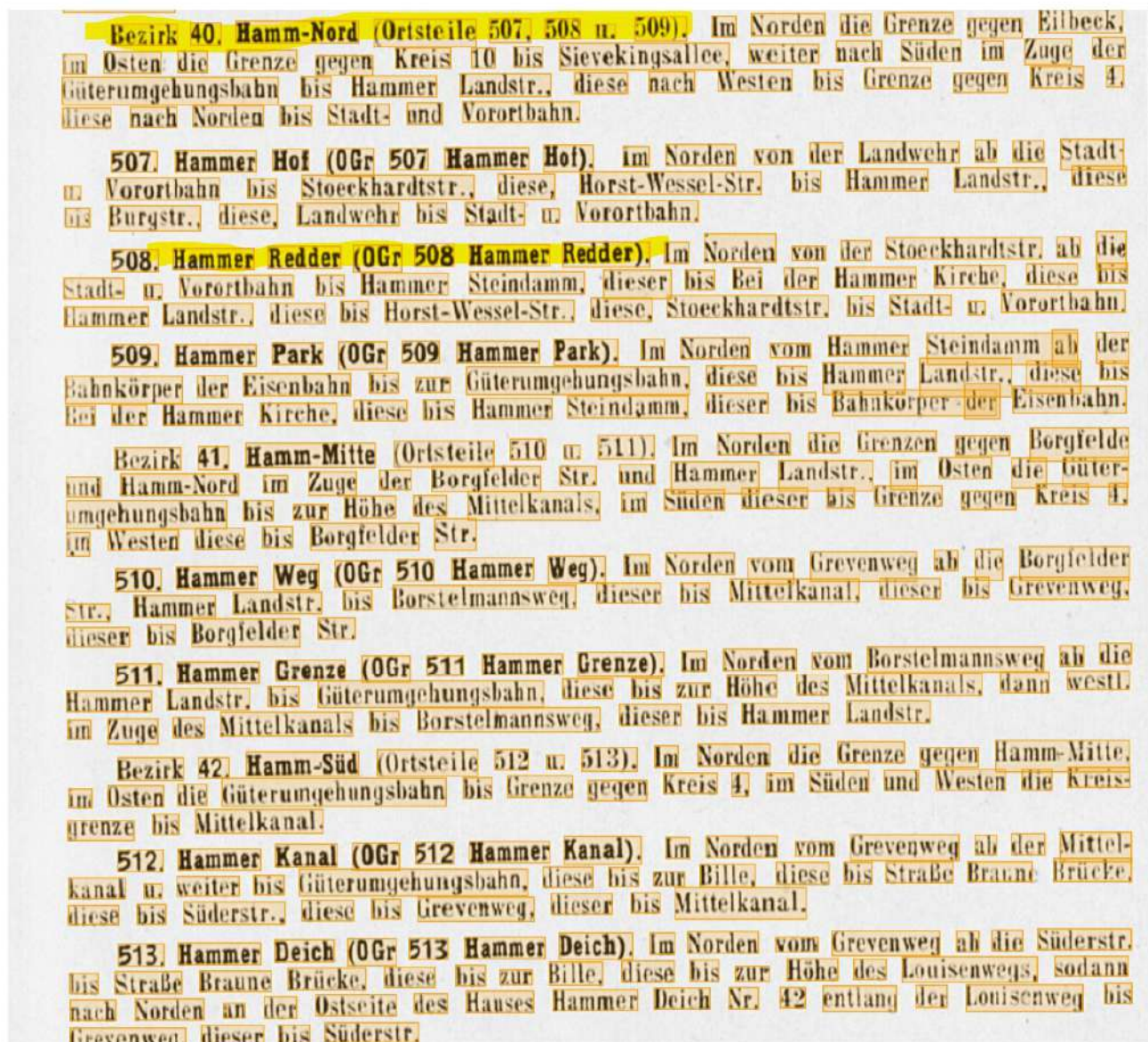
I tried to verify this hypothesis by writing an email to the president of the allotment garden association and asked him about the name 'Hammer Redder from 1920'. Unfortunately, he didn't reply. I tried two times to ask him.

I was dissatisfied with the fact that I only had a hypothesis about the name. Therefore I tried to verify it.

Long story short: My hypothesis was wrong.

I spent some more hours researching for 'Hammer Redder' and eventually found an address book from 1940. In the address book are all districts of Hamburg listed together with their parts.

In the address book of Hamburg from 1940 I found the explanation of 'Hammer Redder': The district Hamm had several parts. One of the parts was 'Hamm Nord'. 'Hamm Nord' had three parts: 'Hammer Hof', 'Hammer Redder' and 'Hammer Park'.



[Above: Part of a page from an address book of Hamburg from 1940. There we can see where 'Hammer Redder' was located.]



[Above: Part of city map of Hamburg from 1936. The yellow lines show the location of the district 'Hammer Redder'.]

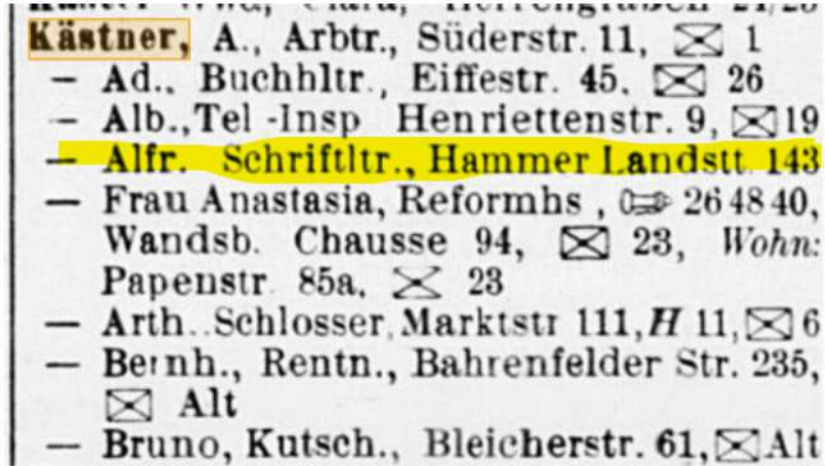
Useful URL

Here is a collection of useful URL. You might use them when you do some researching regarding Hamburg or Third Reich.

- Archive of historical city maps of Hamburg
<https://www.archiv-hhnv.de/stadtplan.htm>
- Archive of historical newspapers from Hamburg (1700 – 1945)
<https://zeitungen.sub.uni-hamburg.de>
 You can search for a specific text and limit the search for year, month, day or weekday.
 e.g. you can search in all newspapers of Hamburg from April, 20, 1933 – 1945 for our Führer. Then you will see a lot of articles about his birthday. The pages are

scanned. You can put the image into Goggle Translate for images and let it translate to English.

- Archive of historical address books of Hamburg
<https://adressbuecher.sub.uni-hamburg.de/>



[Above: Detail from address book of Hamburg from 1940. I marked the entry for Alfred Kästner in yellow.

Kästner, Alfr. Schriftl., Hammer Landstt. 143

entry without abbreviations:

Kästner, Alfred, Schriftleiter (newspaper editor), Hammer Landstraße 143]
