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TO : Chief of Division,

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WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE # 13

PART I - GERMAN HOME FRONT

A. OCCUPIED AREAS

The most striking event of the week, of course, was the counter-attack. Reports from the occupied areas not directly affected are not yet available, though it seems clear that such a large-scale show of strength by the Wehrmacht must make a considerable impression upon the population of the Occupied Zone. Since the prevailing sentiment found among these people has been relief that for them the war was over, such a clear indication that this is not the case - that, in fact, they are likely to be mixed up in the hottest part of the war for some time to come - may undo a considerable amount of the good work begun by the citizenry under the "self-help" policy of Military Government. Such a result may be in the cards for MONSCHAU, previously regarded as a model M.G. town, which has now been used by the Wehrmacht as a jumping-off point in the counter-attack. At the present writing, MONSCHAU is again in American hands and no German town has yet been taken by the Germans.

German propaganda on the counter-attack deliberately creates the impression that this is a very large-scale operation, prepared for months, by using such phrases as "the German winter offensive", and omitting any suggestion that it is limited in scope. The one objective thus far indicated, by Deputy Press Chief SUENDERMANN, is "to drive the enemy from the soil of the Reich". There is a clear connection between the counter-attack and the use made of it in propaganda to the occupied areas. In the operational zone, panic propaganda is being broadcast, designed to paralyze Allied communications by flooding roads with refugees and by inducing railwaymen to stop work. A new version of the old Nazi "strategy of terror" is being directed specifically at the residents of occupied areas. For nearly two months the Nazis, largely through the Schwarze Korps, have been threatening an underground reign of terror against all those assisting Allied forces. Now it is announced that the terror has begun.

A German Forces broadcast (8 December) announces that "The Diplomkaufmann Fritz KOEBEL was found in the neighborhood of AACHEN with his head riddled with bullets. A hand-written label attached to the corpse said : 'Let this be a warning to all ! This is the fate of traitors who have dealings with the enemy. We shall get them all ! The Avengers of German Honor'." This was followed by the rumor, reported by a Swiss paper to have been circulated by the Koelnische Zeitung on 10 December, that a secret Fehme court of German "patriots" had sentenced to death and executed four Burgermeister from the AACHEN area for "collaboration". On 20 December, a German Home broadcast cited the murder, again by "Avengers of German Honor", of several people who have cooperated with the Allies. This DNB release is the first in nation-wide propaganda and represents a deliberate decision to start publicizing the murder of "collaborators" as widely as possible. None of these reported murders has as yet been confirmed by Civil Affairs or Counter-Intelligence officers, but the spread of such rumors may be equally effective in causing terror among the Germans in occupied areas. In this connection, it is reported that as of Wednesday morning AACHEN had not heard of the counter-attack, nor had WUERSELEN by Wednesday afternoon. The absence of reliable news, due to lack of electric power, leaves many towns prey to rumor.

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Whether the combination of military events and terrorist propaganda will be able completely to disrupt life in towns throughout the Allied Zone remains to be seen. Field reports despatched just before the counter-attack jumped off gave ample evidence of increasing successes for M.G. administrators in many places. AACHEN, for example, continued to astound observers by the speed of its recovery. The same reporters who saw a dead city short weeks ago now compared it to Washington D.C. as a center of furious activity. With a present population estimated at something over 11,000 (estimates up to 15,000 have been received), the city has begun to rebuild homes and reorganize the structure of community life.

A considerable amount of glass located in a nearby dump gave impetus to the repair of shattered windows. The food situation was under control, AACHEN being the center of a large agricultural community, with the supply of potatoes, unthreshed wheat, and vegetables apparently assured for the winter. These items were unrationed, while a weekly ration of a half-pound of meat and three pounds of bread per person had been established. A considerable number of retail stores were functioning as distributing points - 20 groceries, 20 bakeries, 17 butcheries. The newly-opened Deutsche Bank met with spectacular success : within three days of its opening as a Savings Bank some 200,000 Marks had been deposited by about 1,000 individuals. These deposits are to be used by the city until tax returns are sufficient to meet the Municipal payroll and repay the loan. The taxes planned are 6% income tax on earnings over 100 Marks, 5% on retail sales, 2% on wholesale transactions. While such a scale of taxes may cause an American or Briton to scratch his ear and wonder, it should be remembered that this is only a local tax designed to cover the needs of Municipal operations.

The city is in good shape for medical assistance. There are now 20 doctors 7 dentists, and 2 pharmacies in AACHEN. The town hospital has 500 beds, which contained only four cases of contagious diseases. Many children have been born during the occupation; the first one was named after the American doctor who delivered it. Field interrogators remark that AACHEN civilians are very friendly and eager to talk. Since the non-fraternization rule is strictly enforced by M.Ps, P.W. interrogators are usually the first Americans that the residents have been able to meet and talk with. They find that Americans enjoy an extraordinary prestige among the Germans. For some it is the prestige of the conqueror; for others it is the prestige of a nation powerful enough to represent the ideal of democracy and to muster overwhelming military might at the same time. So proud are Germans of working for the Americans that many have hand-lettered signs for their doors, which read : "THIS HOUSE IS INHABITED BY ———, COLLABORATOR WITH THE AMERICANS".

The impressions recorded by one interrogator are worthy of notice : "The city has, amidst its ruins, a curious kind of vitality and a strange existence. One lawyer has received permission to practice. Ten men are restoring the court records. Some two dozen musicians are waiting to open up an orchestra. A professor of the history of culture and art is contemplating the mystic beauty of the preserved cathedral and reads into it Charlemagne's character of 'power and spirit'. An old Social Democrat, who refused to have anything to do with the Nazis for 11 years, now emerges from obscurity and smilingly assures the Americans, whom he admires, that the whole experience of the siege and the fighting and the bombardment was something that he was glad to have gone through because he would not want 'to miss anything in life'. A middle-aged Socialist woman, who was hounded by the Gestapo and spent years in concentration camp for underground political activity, comes forward and offers to help the Americans 'to fight Fascism'. A homosexual stage and movie actor, all natty and perfumed, wants to sing American songs for the American troops. And a rat-exterminator, the only one in town, tells that he is worried about the increase in the rat population which feeds on unburied corpses. As we walked through the streets of AACHEN in his company, he was telling us how he is searching for chemicals to make poisons to kill the pests."

"Life goes on quietly in the homes. Germans must be off the streets at 5.30 and stay indoors until 7 in the morning. Those who have no candles search for fats to make candles. What they do during the long nights is a mystery. Many go to bed early, as early as 7, for there is nothing to do and the one candle that a person can afford to use is not sufficient for prolonged reading. But the people in the city are neither depressed nor discouraged. On the contrary, they give the impression of high spirits, of energy, and of willingness to start anew. Americans are held in high esteem; and if there is any grumbling, it is not directed against M.G. AACHEN lies largely in ruins. But the people who live there, the people who remained behind largely because they were non-Nazi or anti-Nazi, are intent upon rebuilding and upon cheerful cooperation with the Americans whom many Germans consider their liberators. 'We don't care what kind of government we have, or who rules us', one intelligent woman said, 'so long as we are rid of Nazism and have some freedom'."

In STOLBERG, the Wohlfartsamt (Welfare Agency) has set up a scale of subsidies, for which soldiers' wives and others who have lost their means of support through the war are eligible. A single person receives 20 RM per month and a married couple 30 RM, with an additional 10 RM for each additional member of the family. This scale is calculated to be just enough to buy the daily food rations, which are 0.20 RM for soup and 0.10 RM for half a pound of bread. It is intended that the money, which is advanced as a loan, will be repaid when possible at a future date. The food situation has not improved, distribution being handled by 10 soup-kitchens which are supplied by 5 warehouses and the lack of transport constituting a bottleneck in the flow. The energetic Deputy Mayor, however, has taken steps to improve the situation by setting up a food commission which supervises the gathering and distribution of food by charging individual wholesalers with the procurement of specific types of produce.

The political unbalance in STOLBERG has been somewhat retrieved by the personality of the Deputy Mayor. The Burgermeister is a Center Party man and he surrounded himself with a "clique"* of men with a "Right" political orientation. Since STOLBERG is an industrial town, there was a considerable amount of complaint heard from the representatives of the working class concerning this situation, aggravated by the fact that the Mayor's personality and past were not entirely palatable to the "Leftish" elements of the population. More recently, a Social-Democratic Deputy Mayor has been taking hold in the administration and bringing in his own men. This has brought about a temporary balance in the representation of actual political forces within the administration. As a general rule such uneasy coalitions do not long endure unless they have a genuine working arrangement on policy questions. The modus vivendi in STOLBERG seems to be that the Burgermeister takes primary administrative responsibility to the American M.G. officials, while the Deputy Burgermeister holds himself responsible for implementing arrangements to ease the daily life of the population (e.g., food procurement and distribution, etc.).

Other informants in STOLBERG agree that workers were exploited by the Nazis through the imposition of long hours under extremely difficult conditions. Industrial espionage was customary, in one case through the agency of plant fire wardens. Foreign workers in this same plant suffered most, receiving discriminatory treatment in the allotments of food and clothing. They were not allowed to withdraw to shelters during air raids until the "danger overhead" alarm was signalled. Another plant was praised, however, for its good treatment of foreign workers, who received the same consideration as German workers. According to one extremely well-informed resident, the EDELWEISS organization in STOLBERG was disbanded in March of this year after an HJ leader was shot at DUEREN and several executions had taken place. The organization recruited its members among Catholics and within the Nazi Party, and is said to have been connected with the students' movement in MUNICH.

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* One observer points out that "clique" is now the standard term for the governing body, a semantic residue of the decade of Nazi politics.

Three P.W. interrogators with the Third U.S.Army who moved into SAARLAUTERN with an advance company of Combat Engineers confirmed the old slogan of German Landsers : "Kanonen schiessen keine Erdaepfel". Over 1000 German civilians emerged from a bunker in the LISDORF section which had been built to hold 600. Immediately after taking over the bunker the M.G.O. read General EISENHOWER's proclamation, whereupon twelve men in civilian clothes came forward to surrender themselves as deserters. When questioned about national preferences, most people claimed to be Lorrainers above all else. The German spoken is good; only the older people are bilingual. Anti-Nazi sentiments are frequently heard, but a 10-year old boy referred to German troops as "unsere" (ours) until surreptitious prompting by his elders encouraged him to change to "die Deutschen". One informant told of the arrest and imprisonment in July of Pastor STRUPP of ALTFORWEILER, for having said from his pulpit : "Wenn ihr jetzt einrueckt, geht Ihr nur den Krieg verlaengern" (If you join the ranks now you will just lengthen the war). STRUPP was sent to NUERNBERG and thence to DACHAU which, according to the same informant, has become the chief concentration camp for clergy, political prisoners having been transferred to other camps in order to make room.

B. ENEMY AREAS

(1) The German Combat Zone

The present air offensive, particularly in Western Germany, is regarded as different in kind from the earlier catastrophes. GOEBBELS, paying his third visit to the area in two months, has again admitted that the air war dominates people's minds, and that the policy of silence is resented. LEY continues to write of "large towns without food, light or gas, without a single undamaged house". The effects of bombing of transport is admitted on all sides to be particularly disastrous. In admitting that present raids seem to be carried out "without difficulty or risk", GOEBBELS stated that "enemy bombs are destroying our traffic arteries" and that the sun would not shine again for German railroads until "the Luftwaffe again soars powerfully above German soil". It is clear that his recent promises of relief by the Luftwaffe had some basis by the re-emergence of the Luftwaffe in strength during the past week. It is not clear, however, that the tactical use of the Luftwaffe over Allied lines will afford any considerable respite to the harrassed population west of the RHINE. The attitude in these areas toward the resurgent Wehrmacht is, indeed, problematical. During the recent past evacuation has drawn from the towns threatened by Allied advances a considerable portion of the population, mainly the Nazi portion. Those who remained were either anti-Nazi or non-Nazi to such a degree that they preferred life under the Allies to life under the Nazis. In nearly all cases, those who remained were chiefly concerned that for them the war should soon be over, and advancing Allied troops were their best hope that this might soon come to pass. Many people within this area, in addition, had been outraged by looting, mishandling, and other overt acts against the civilian population committed by members of the Wehrmacht. Although these people can have but an insignificant influence, if any, upon actual military operations, their prevailing desire to see the war over and done with may become a factor of consequence.

One channel through which discontent may reveal itself is the Volkssturm This body has been reported in contact by our troops twice; once fighting well, once fighting very badly indeed. But in both cases the action was defensive. There is no evidence of any intention to use the Volkssturm in offensive action during the present counter-attack, but even where it is used in holding or other actions in support of the attack, the problem of morale will be brought sharply into focus. For there is considerable evidence that men called for the Volkssturm dread most being used as mere untrained cannon-fodder. The following sentences from a correspondent in SAARBRUECKEN should be noted : "Enemy propaganda is now dealing with the German Volkssturm, saying that the Volkssturm men were thrown into the focal points on the fighting fronts without having been trained, armed or equipped ... Clear brains must

immediately refute the above-mentioned deliberate enemy lie, because an untrained and unarmed Volkssturm man would only be a hindrance at the fighting front. In order to stop this criminal gossip for ever, it must be stated that only Volkssturm men and units who are fully trained, equipped and armed according to the regulations are allowed to come into contact with the enemy ... It is the duty of every German Volksgenosse, and in particular of the Volkssturm soldier, to rebuke really sharply those who spread this criminal enemy lie." The significance of these remarks, which are designed to assuage fears of going into battle untrained, appears when it is observed that the same paper the same day also revealed incidentally that "the WESTMARK Volkssturm has been mobilized for front service". Since the administration of LORRAINE was united with that of GAU WESTMARK, and refugees from LORRAINE have flocked back into the WESTMARK, it is likely that the debacle of the Volkssturm at METZ is well-known throughout the area.

Some small hindrance of the German war effort is possible at DUESSELDORF. A P/W, who lived in a section of the town known as OBERBILK, told interrogators that "all" of his friends there were Communists and were secretly organized. This is the workers' section of the town and is known as "the red carpet of DUESSELDORF". Many fist fights between workers and Party members have been reported here. Among less "activist" elements, resistance takes passive forms. The P/W claims that in his favorite hang-out anyone who gives the Hitler salute will not be waited on. This is accomplished either by ignoring the customer's request for service or by telling him that the house is fresh out of whatever he has ordered. Another P/W reports a similar situation in FRANKFURT, where people whisper about the Nazis and treat them as outsiders.

From COLOGNE continued reports are received confirming the hanging of approximately twelve civilians, among them two or three women, in the EHRENFELD section in October. A new "anti-Nazi" organization is reported in COLOGNE which calls itself the MMC (short for MARIANNISCHE MAENNER CONGREGATION) This was organized by the Jesuits; its members, who are introduced to the organization by members of good standing, are all Catholics; the emphasis is on family men with young children. The main purpose of the MMC is to influence family men to educate their children as good Catholics. One task assigned to members, the "Vertrauensmaenner", is to distribute religious literature in their street blocks. Although this organization takes no active steps against the Nazis, their program is clearly designed to forestall Nazification of the youth and to combat Nazi ideology, at least among practising Catholics. A P/W states that workers groups in COLOGNE have prepared a Black List of Nazi personalities for their own use, which they apparently intend to turn over to Allied authorities as well.

The region between MANNHEIM and the RUHR is said to be particularly disorganized by Allied bombings. Troops have to be transported more and more by road instead of train, which adds to the desperate scarcity of gas. Telephone and telegraph services are disorganized to such an extent that even plane-spotting service is affected. Letters from Central Germany take more than two days to reach the RUHR, and mail is no longer delivered except in the immediate neighborhood of the place where pouches are deposited. One informant stated that during the Russian campaign much of the German war production was transferred to the east, with the result that there is a great shortage of plant within Western Germany today. In the RUHR district, he claims, manufacture has very largely ceased and the region is now used chiefly for the exploitation of its mines. Although such reports must be read with caution, there has been some confirmatory evidence of the large-scale transfer of industry from the RUHR. An article in the ESSEN National Zeitung (23 November) reveals that people are worried about this transfer because the district, no longer a key industrial center, will not be defended at all costs and because it will be hard to recover industrial supremacy after the war. Although it admits that "it is painful to bid farewell to one's exclusive significance", the article consoles the population with the thought that : "Feats of industrial removal were accomplished and techniques invented which will exert their influence in the days of peace to come ... All the more did reasonable economic circles in the RUHR welcome that for economic reasons other parts of Germany joined in the Reich's struggle for life in good time."

(2) The Interior

Workers in STOLBERG, who had been employed in various parts of the Reich during the recent past, have been able to supply a fairly clear picture of the conditions of industrial labor under the Nazis. Their tale is mainly of Zwang (compulsion) as the leading feature of a worker's life. Originally wages had been fixed in accordance with the most recent union contracts, and small variations in different plants were equalized. After that a Lohnstop (freezing of wages) was announced, which prohibited any change in the existing wage scale. At first this arrangement was satisfactory, but the subtraction of "voluntary" contributions from the pay check soon began to make serious inroads into actual "take-home" pay. The rising cost of living, aggravated by shortage of civilian goods and consequent black market, considerably reduced the value of the workers' pay in terms of "real wages". The subsequent institution of the 60-hour week throughout Germany created a rebellious state of mind among workers, according to our informants. To forestall revolts and outbursts, they claim, the Nazis made them all subject to a Dienstverpflichtung (compulsory labor) which ruled that any worker, skilled or unskilled, could be forced to work anywhere in the Reich according to the Party Labor authority's opinion of where he was most "needed". This law broke the rebellious spirit among workers, for they felt it to be designed mainly as a threat to "trouble-makers". Since nobody wanted to be transferred or, if transferred, tagged as "bad" by the Labor bosses, most workers "resigned themselves to their fate".

Additional information concerning the lot of foreign workers has come in from groups of forced laborers, mainly Belgians, who worked in various parts of the Reich. In most places foreign workers were separated into three categories, each of which was always referred to as "voluntary" by the Nazis : (1) Western workers (French, Belgian, and Dutch) - these were allegedly treated like German workers and received the same pay; (2) Polish workers - these wore a large square yellow insignia with a "P" on it. They were paid according to the German wage scale, but were made to return a considerable amount through the device of a heavy "Ostabgabe". In public places and transports they were subject to many restrictions. (3) Russian and Ukrainian workers - these were clearly the worst handled category, recognized by their large blue square bearing an "O" for Ostarbeiter. They received a little spending-money, but this could not be spent legally since they were not permitted to enter any stores or other public places. The money was used mainly to purchase items on the black market run by Western workers.

Both Russians and Poles were treated on a sub-human level. One informant told the story of an air raid at the Askania factory near BERLIN which tallies with many similar tales heard in the past. The Russian workers, who lived in a barbed wire compound, were not allowed to seek refuge in shelters. Even when incendiaries and H.E. bombs began to fall in the area they were not released and 500 perished, most of them burning to death on the barbed wire while trying to save themselves. In some places, it is reported, Eastern workers were systematically starved. Other workers were allowed to supplement their meager diet by eating in those restaurants open to them, whereas these were prevented from leaving their compounds. As late as 1 June 1944 Western workers were allowed to return home on leaves, but no such privilege was ever granted to Eastern workers. Several informants claim to have witnessed cases where Russian women workers were forced to remain at their jobs until an hour before giving birth and then ordered to return within a few days afterward.

Belgian workers, however, claim that despite their membership in the first category they were treated as second-class persons. In public transports and movies they were forced to give up their seats to Germans and 90% of all restaurants were closed to them. Industrial workers, who were obliged to wear a badge marked "A" for Auslaender (foreign) suffered more severely from the slogan "Feind bleibt Feind" (Once enemy, always enemy) than workers in rural districts.

Here it should be noted that conditions of foreign workers vary largely from area to area, and even from plant to plant. During the recent past, the Party has issued various guidance notes to correct excesses of both generosity and cruelty. There is a fair amount of evidence that foreign workers were treated kindly by German fellow-workers and by well-disposed civilians, particularly women, who would secretly slip them extra bits of food. In rural areas, foreign workers had considerable freedom, and clandestine relations with German women were frequent, though severely punished when discovered. Some Ps/W have complained bitterly that in small villages through which they have passed, foreign workers were cocks-of-the-walk, particularly Frenchmen who had a considerable reputation as lovers and were much sought after by German women. In this connection should be noted reports by several forced workers that hostility against foreign women, especially Belgian or French, was stronger than against the men, since the German women were jealous of their superior chic and makeup.

The position of women in Nazi Germany, be it noted, is not an enviable one. It is all very well to be enshrined in Nazi literature as a Bruenhilde, but the German woman does not want to wait out the rest of her life within a ring of fire which fewer and fewer Siegfrieds seem to breach. And the German women who has even one eye on the main chance has begun to see that there is no future in "Kinder, Kueche, Kirche" when the Church is under disfavor, the kitchen is subject to ration coupons, and the kids are being dragged off to dig or to train in HJ military camps. In addition to the earlier pressures on women due to the absence of their men, "total mobilization" of themselves and their daughters, HJ antics with their sons, there are now some indications that women are to be pressed into military service. A Swedish correspondent from BERLIN announces (11 December), perhaps too hastily, that Frau SCHOLZ-KLINK, the Reich Woman Leader, is now a "General" and is busily organizing an Officers' Corps of Women. The German press says that women will not be placed in trenches, but adds that women are suited for fighting and speak of the "martial urge" which characterizes the female of the species. One study of the press treatment of this subject comments : "The tone of these discussions strongly indicates that uniformed women will soon be found far enough forward so that our PWE's will have to establish powder rooms". An unconfirmed newspaper report this week speaks of a number of young women having been captured at a battalion C.P. The DNB broadcast of 5 December concerning the new Wehrmacht-Helferinnenkorps makes it clear that conscription of women is intended. Front und Heimat of 7 December indicates the increased military purpose of this new corps : "While the Stabshelferinnen are only doing office work, the new Wehrmachthelferinnen will do various jobs outside the offices too. In the AA service, where Flakhelferinnen have already been employed, many more men will be released". Two Ps/W, both from BERLIN, report that the Battery C.O. is usually the only man assigned to a flak unit, the rest of the crew being women and BDM girls. Women defense workers alternate a week at the factory with a week at the guns. The Ps/W claim they become panicky during raids and fire very inaccurately.

The undercurrents of discontent which have accompanied these aspects of the "strenuous life" in Nazi Germany may have had some influence upon the decision of the German High Command to launch its present counter-attack. It is clear that there were sound military reasons for the project - for example, the enormous attrition of the Wehrmacht during the recent "static" period (First Canadian Army G-2 estimates that during the "stalemate" month of November the Wehrmacht lost about 6,000 square miles of territory and 100,000 Ps/W). Military considerations no doubt predominated in the council of war preceding the offensive. But it seems likely that some weight in the decision was contributed by such political and morale factors, particularly in Western Germany, as the critical transport situation and the consequent maldistribution of food, the disastrous bombings, the dreaded evacuation. The importance attributed to these matters by the leadership is a matter of speculation. However, even should the counter-offensive meet with a limited success it will probably bring small relief from physical discomforts and deprivations, and the temporary rise in morale may lead to an even deeper slump upon the Allied renewal of its own offensive.

PART II - WEHRMACHT MORALE

1. Morale adequate for counterattack.

It is still too early to report in detail on the morale of soldiers engaged in the present offensive, or on the effect of the news of the counter-attack on German troops in other sectors. Faced with an unfavourable strategic situation, German troops have launched their counter thrust with apparently the same determination with which they have recently been resisting Allied attacks. It seems clear that the German High Command felt certain that the strong points in German morale which make the German soldier a formidable defensive fighter could even at this stage of the war be successfully employed in offensive fighting.

One of the most important factors on which the Wehrmacht could rely is the still unbroken faith of majority of the Landsers in at least some aspect of the German Fuehrung (leadership). Judging by numerous samples among prisoners, over half the German soldiers still express some strong measure of faith in Hitler as a political and social leader. Although a note of disapproval of the German High Command has been encountered ever since the fall of France and the 20th July revolt, the traditionally deep German sense of military discipline and unquestioning obedience of superior orders still remains intact. Unreserved confidence in junior officers still predominates. Orders to counterattack can be expected, under these circumstances, to be honoured and executed vigorously and without question.

Those who believe (as many have been shown to do) that Hitler loves the German people too much for him to prolong a lost war unnecessarily or permit a useless counterattack will argue that the mere fact of the present attack being launched proves that it must be for the ultimate benefit of the German people. For this reason, they will support it with all the more enthusiasm. Others less devoted who have doubts about the possibility of a decisive German victory still hope that Hitler, or some other German leader, will be able to bring about a political conclusion to the war which will be more advantageous than unconditional surrender. A major counterattack to achieve such a goal would seem entirely reasonable to them.

The impression of such German propaganda, as is likely to have reached the troops, will probably be that credit for the offensive is to be attributed to the leadership generally, no clear cut claims having been made for the military or Party aspects. But as the drive begins to spend its force or fail, the problem of attributing responsibility will become more acute. The obvious alternatives will be to claim that the political repercussions have been such asto outweigh military losses - or alternatively, to find a scapegoat. It is also possible although, of course, too early to predict, that an unsuccessful counterattack which once more takes the German Armies outside the borders of the Fatherland, may seriously undermine confidence in both Army and Party leadership. In this connection it should also be possible to judge the importance of the claims of some sources that German morale, as manifested by determined "house to house resistance" is largely dependant on the fact that the German armies are actually defending German soil.

The strange belief that time is on the side of Germany, over the short run tends to make for strong morale, and obviously contributes to a spirit of counterattack for this is clearly intended to win for Germany the necessary breathing space and delay the Allied advance until such time as the complete effects of total mobilization can be felt. This myth is supported by the frequently encountered belief in the Wehrmacht that the United Nations are so split that one day soon they will be fighting among themselves. The Balkan area had been cited by some Ps/W even before the disturbances broke out in Greece as the location where the first armed conflict will take place. In this respect Germany has merely to hold out to that time in order to escape the effects of complete defeat.

Offensively to hasten the day of political cleavage and war-weariness of the Allies, attrition of the enemy forces is necessary. To a considerable extent

the belief is still encountered currently among Ps/W that German character and skill can overcome the numerical superiority of the Allied armaments and bring about attrition. Most important to achieve this goal is renewed growth of faith in secret weapons.

As yet no startling new devices are being reported in the counterattack. Flying bombs have been used tactically, and jet propelled planes, previously encountered, were met during the first day's aerial combat in large numbers. However, reports indicate that the German troops engaged in the counterattack are extremely well armed with extremely effective weapons. For some intelligent believers, especially officers, faith in new weapons hinges not on the belief of the devastating potency of a single weapon but rather on the efficiency of new and perfected weapons. Should the character of the present encounter bear out the belief that the weapons with which the German soldier is equipped are individually good, faith would be considerably strengthened, the only limiting factors being the numerical superiority which the Allies can bring to bear.

On the other hand, it does not seem likely that such weapons will be interpreted by the average German soldier as the decisive employment of new secret weapons of the devastation producing variety. Failure of Nazi propaganda to make any claims for secret weaponsin this counter-attack, bears out this point. Those soldiers who had some general and vague expectation about such secret weapons will begin once more to doubt their arrival or effectiveness as was the case after the failure of V-1. Yet, it should be remembered that among many completely nazified soldiers the faith is in some unknown miracle rather than in the specific potency of new secret weapons. Such soldiers are unlikely to be dismayed by the failure of secret weapon to appear in this particular battle.

The present counterattack represents a decisive psychological commitment as well as a military one. The German leadership has decided that the appropriate time has arrived for a full-scale counter blow. The results of this military operation may well generate new attitudes towards German leadership. Moreover, the skill with which the present operation is portrayed to the troops as a successful achievement in defence of the Reich will have a powerful effect in fashioning morale during the final phases of the Allied drive into Germany. Future Wehrmacht morale reports will attempt to follow these points closely.

2. Wehrmacht Morale on 21 A.G.Front.

Interrogation reports recently received from the British 21 A.G. indicate that morale of the Wehrmacht in this sector is similar to that encountered elsewhere on the front. Isolated desertions occur; but as on the US front, only where,because of some peculiar background factor,the individual soldier is willing to face the hazards of breaking his ties with the Wehrmacht. Police reserves appear to have been encountered who offer poor resistance. But generally morale remains firm and unchanged.

Listening to Allied broadcasts by troops in the line remains limited, lack of facilities is most often cited as the reason. Most Ps/W have had some contact with our leaflets; and as elsewhere the "Safe Conduct" pass is the best known.

3. Rumours in the Wehrmacht.

Armies are traditionally plagued by waves of rumours. The Wehrmacht, beset by a lack of hard information, is particularly fertile in this respect. The degree to which German soldiers become carriers of rumours, both optimistic and pessimistic, is seen by the fact that recently soldiers in Allied Ps/W camps were reporting that Germany had launched attacks against England. The problem has developed to the point where Nazi authorities are frequently calling for disciplinary action against chronic rumourmongers and are with elaborate arguments offering denials to demoralizing rumours. On the other hand, they are attempting to exploit the tendency to spread rumours by introducing through the activities of NSF officers, "oral propaganda" beneficial to the Nazi point of view.

A captured order dated October, "Garrison Metz", issued by a NSF officer reveals clearly some of the rumours which the Nazis consider dangerous enough to issue directions for denial. (1) Idle chatter about military setbacks since 20th July having been caused by treason, has not ceased. The facts are, according to the directive: The responsible criminals have found retribution. On the other hand, 61 generals have been killed and another sixty have been wounded during the last few years. The leaders of our troops stand unfalteringly behind Adolf Hitler.

(2) Rumour mongering about the behaviour of the civilian population in the Rhineland, in part based on actual fact, can be inferred from the statement that the conduct of the German population in these areas has been exemplary and soldiers should be told of this. (3) To counter expressions of pro-American occupation sentiment the"imminent publication of American decrees for the administration of occupied German territory must be exploited." The administration of Germany will be entrusted to emigrants who are to act as stool pigeons in the midst of the National Socialist population. The reading of Mass on German soil by "Roosevelt's" propaganda bishop" is pointed out as further evidence of American political tactics.

More positive use of rumours is directed in a captured order dated November and addressed to all NSF officers. The following lines of attack are laid out: (1) Soviet occupation of the Balkans, to protect its supply lines and put down anti-Soviet partisans,is resulting in a reduction of Soviet tactical reserves. Nevertheless the Soviet cannot dispense with this occupation of the Balkan countries, for otherwise the British would regain their influence in that region. (2) Nationalist partisan groups in the Ukraine are seriously interfering with the Soviet supply system. (3) German garrisons in the Atlantic coast bases have the ta of preventing the Anglo-Americans from using larger ports as long as possible and they are thereby disrupting the supply of badly neededstores. Furthermore, advantage of the time thus gained has been taken to complete additional U-boats. (4) Old U-boats are constantly cruising the Atlantic Ocean, tying down hundreds of Anglo-American warships and a great number of heavy bombers. New U-boats will be employed shortly which will seriously imperil the invasion troops.

The order also contains a rumour concerning (5) the use of Belgian and French gangsters as civilian police by the Anglo-Americans in the occupied German border regions. General Eisenhower is reported as having asked for 150,000 such terrorists to supervise the German population in these territories. The Parisian Communis newspaper L'Humanité of 18 October is quoted as having said that Eisenhower can depend on these people to know how to deal with the German vermin. They can stand the sight of blood, as they have frequently proven to the entire satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief in France.

Protection of the soldier against the effects of rumours spread by civilians requires special directives. A recent Luftwaffe order tells soldiers on leave how to deal with this problem. He is warned that all wild rumours at home stem from enemy propaganda, and that he should give notice of the criminality of such insidious agitation. Moreover, he is supplied with answers to some of the questions he is almost certain to meet. The reply to the question: "When will the war end?" is: "When Germany is victorious."He should tell people who say that they are fed up with the war that if "we had talked this way in the winters of 1941-42 or 1943-44, the Bolsheviks would now be in Germany." An outlet for the grievances which he is likely to accumulate while on leave is supplied by the suggestion that if he believes his relatives are harshly or unjustly handled, he should withhold criticism, examine the case and report it to a Party official or his squadron leader upon return to camp.

Front und Heimat (German telegraph service for Army newspapers) went further in advising soldiers on the problem of resisting rumours circulated by the few ungrateful civilians. It is not enough for the soldier to personally disbelieve the facts. "The man who spreads the lie must have his ears boxed so that he does not do it again."

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