

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE # 33 GERMAN HOME FRONT

THE WAR ENDS

The war came to an end for Germany, in the apt words of the poet, "Not with a bang, but a whimper". There has been no great impact of defeat, because defeat has been long in coming and in some quarters eagerly awaited. Interrogation of Germans during the past 8 months has shown clearly that there was an enormous loss of faith in Germany after STALINGRAD. Among civilians, particularly, the great Allied landings of 6 June 1944 were another shattering blow to confidence in ultimate German victory. By the time the Allied armies had reached the German border in the west, few Germans, at least among those who remained, retained any hope of German victory; most predicted that Germany would collapse as soon as we had crossed the Rhine. By this time loss of confidence was accompanied in many cases by a genuine desire to see the war finished — and since this clearly meant finished by means of Allied victory, many Germans in the occupied areas were willing to accept defeat as the condition of peace.

In contrast to the situation after 1918, the Germans now clearly recognize the fact of a complete military defeat. The destruction all about them, the collapse of their armies, the signing of unconditional surrenders on every front leave no room for doubt this time that Germany has been thoroughly whipped on the battle field. But the acknowledgment of military defeat is not equivalent to a recognition of the full consequences of such defeat.

It is perfectly clear from recent interrogations that there is no widespread realization of what defeat means to the Germans as a people, and more particularly as individuals. Their obsequious demeanor when in view of Allied personnel, their professed hatred of the Nazis, their protestations of innocence are all part of the confusion between the tacit acknowledgment of defeat and the attempt to disclaim one's own involvement in the disaster. Salvation is sought by the use of pious phrases like "belogen und betrogen"; by the irresponsible pretense of the "Kleiner Mann" (even Hermann GOERING seems to have taken this line, despite its comical aspect when applied to the beefy Marshal); by the egocentric preoccupation with purely private affairs.

HOW THE MEWS CAME

The acceptance of Allied terms of unconditional surrender by Admiral DOENITZ was broadcast over Flensburg Radio by Foreign Minister von KROSIGK, on the afternoon of 7 May: "German men and women! The High Command of the armed forces has today, at the order of Grand Admiral DOENITZ, declared the unconditional surrender of all fighting troops". Then, on his own behalf as "the leading Minister of the Reich Government", von KROSIGK declared that Germany has succumbed to the overwhelming power of her enemies, and that to continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. Even under these circumstances he attempted to present a picture of the preservation of the German community and nation: "A Government with a feeling of responsibility for the future of the nation was compelled to draw the logical conclusions from the collapse of all physical and material forces, and to ask the enemy for the cessation of hostilities". One

SECRET

thing must be preserved from the wreckage: "mass unity and the idea of the national community", for the spirit of mutual help would be needed "as much in the hard times of poverty and hunger to come as in the times of battle and bombing raids". Speaking of future prospects, the Foreign Minister emphasized that a fundamental factor in German post—war policy would be the honoring of treaties with respect for international law.

Following the line of General JODL, a last minute bid for mercy was included: "We may hope that the atmosphere of hatred which today surrounds Germany and the world will give place to a spirit of reconciliation among the nations, without which the world cannot recover".

The same evening, news of the total surrender ordered by DOENITZ was conveyed to the German forces in Norway. General BOEHNE, Wehrmacht Commander in Norway, in an order of the day, declared: "I know that this is a hard blow for you, Unbeaten, in full possession of our strength, we stand in Norway. No enemy has dared to attack us and yet we too must bow to the dictate of our enemy in the interest of the German cause as a whole". Earlier in the day an order by DOENITZ to U-boats to cease hostilities and return home had been broadcast by Flensburg station.

The "High Command of the German troops in Bohemia-Moravia", broadcasting over the German-controlled PRAGUE Radio, labelled the announcement of unconditional surrender over Flensburg station as "enemy propaganda" and asserted that the struggle would continue until the Germans in the East were saved and their way back into the homeland assured.

On 8 May the principal feature on Flensburg station was an address by DOENITZ. The troops, he said, had now "set out on the bitter road to captivity, thus making the last sacrifice to the lives of our women and children, to the future of our nation". After appeals for bravery and discipline, and for "work to the utmost of our capacity", DOENITZ concluded by saying that if duty called for him to remain in office he would "try to help you as far as lies in my power", but that if "duty demands that I should go this step also shall be a service to the nation and to the Reich". In the evening Flensburg issued an announcement of the High Command, signed by General JODL, giving detailed instructions that no materials of war or shipping were to be destroyed or damaged.

On 9 May, the final day of German broadcasting, transmissions were reduced to a series of short and uncontroversial transmissions from Flensburg and the final High Command communique. This document praised the contingents which had still been opposing the Russians on the previous day, after which it announced that since midnight all arms had been silenced on all fronts. The "unique performance for the homeland", it was said, would "find a final appreciation in a just verdict of history. Every soldier may, therefore, lay aside his arms proudly and erect, and set to work for the undying life of our people". A notice followed announcing the lifting of the blackout and the removal of the ban on listening to foreign stations.

THE "PUTSCH" IN MUNICH

On the evening of 27 April, two days before the American troops entered MUNICH, came the only uprising of a substantial group of Germans against the Nazis. Although the fact that a rising did actually take place has been established, there is as yet no clear picture of the exact details. The most complete account of the incident is that given by its leader, Captain Ruprecht GERNGROSS, to a PWD interrogator. This account is therefore the version of a highly-placed partisan which, in the absence of reliable confirmation from other sources, is not to be regarded as necessarily accurate.

GERNGROSS himself, a man of 31, was a lawyer in civil life and the son of MUNICH's best-known doctor. A man of wealth and influence, he spent two years at the London School of Economics. The interrogator, an Englishman of considerable political acumen, spent three days in his company and reports that

"he speaks English fluently and, indeed, might easily be taken for an Englishman ... I formed the opinion that he is a born leader, with a very considerable personal magnetism and genuine liberal and democratic convictions."

According to GERNGROSS, he began to prepare his "putsch" immediately after the Nazi advent to power, as a youth of 19. He realized from the beginning that no internal revolt could, without outside assistance, hope to successfully contend against the Nazi terror machine. Between 1933 and 1939 he formed small groups of anti-Nazis throughout Bavaria. This work proceeded slowly and carefully because the elaborate Nazi system of espionage announcement made any type of organization extremely perilous. GERNGROSS points out that it was easier for a man of his class to do such work than it would have been for a working man living in crowded neighborhoods and under the constant surveillance of neighbors.

His movement was organized by groups of 5, only one member of each group having any knowledge of the others. He himself was the only person with complete knowledge of the activities of the whole movement. Several members of the movement were ordered by him to join the Nazi Party for self-protection.

At the outbreak of war he was sent to Poland as an artillery officer, was badly wounded, spent six months in hospital, and was finally declared unfit for active service. He then proposed to the High Command the formation of a company of interpreters for each Wehrkreis, a proposal which was adopted. He formed 20 of these companies in the hope that thus he could extend his movement throughout Germany. At the head of each company was a man whom he believed he could trust to join in the rising when the time came, but it appears that the only interpreters' company which did actually rise against the Nazis was his own, in Bavaria. This Bavarian company was the nucleus of the revolt. It contained not only genuine linguists but the toughest fighters in GERNGROSS's movement, who had no linguistic achievements to their credit whatsoever.

One of its activities was connected with the big prisoner of war camp at MOSSBURG. GERNGROSS was able to have a number of his men assigned to interrogation of Allied prisoners of war in the camp, and thus to establish close and permanent contact with British, American and French officers, a considerable number of whom were helped to escape from the camp, were hidden by GERNGROSS's groups, and were eventually passed through the German lines to the Allied side of the front with messages for the Allied authorities. The PWD interrogator himself met in MUNICH one of the American officers who had done this and who had

returned with the Seventh Army when it took the city.

As the military situation of Germany began to deteriorate contacts were established with the foreign workers in MUNICH, particularly the French, and arms, including machine guns and mortars as well as rifles, were distributed to them and to the German factory workers. Considerable stores of arms had been acquired through the agency of members of the movement who were doctors at the big German military hospitals.

On the afternoon of 27 April the codeword for the operation - Fasanenjagd (Pheasant hunt)-was given to begin the revolt at nightfall. A reconnaissance had revealed that only one battalion of SS was actually in MUNICH at 5 o'clock that afternoon. Instructions were given to the factory workers, and carried out to the letter, to block all roads leading into MUNICH by which SS reinforcements could be brought up and also to the railwaymen to stop all trains coming into MUNICH with SS reinforcements.

Storm—troops of the FAB (Freiheitsaktion Bayern), acting simultaneously in many parts of the city, seized and killed all the Ortsgruppenleiter. A strong body seized the Rathaus and made a prisoner of WEBER, the president of the municipal government and one of the most corrupt and fraudulent of the Nazi Bonzen. He was subsequently liquidated. The headquarters of Gauleiter GIESLER were seized, but unfortunately GIESLER himself was not there. General X von WESTPHAL, the Commander in Chief of the Wehrmacht in the area, was imprisoned with his staff by the expedient of blowing up all the exits of the deep bunker in which he had made his headquarters. He was imprisoned there for two days, managing to clear a way out only an hour or so before the arrival of the American troops. Another group proceeded to STARNBERG, the Wehrmacht headquarters outside MUNICH, only to find that it was largely deserted. All communications, however, were severed by this party.

Meanwhile a battalion of the 17th Pz Div. under Major BRAUN, who had joined the revolt, had captured the main MUNICH radio transmitters at ERDING, while another party was already operating the small municipal radio transmitter, putting out instructions to the Wehrmacht and foreign workers to rise against the Nazis.

On the night of the 27th all the key points in MUNICH, including the offices of the <u>Voelkischer Beobachter</u> and the police headquarters, were in the hands of the FAB. Unfortunately, unknown to GERNGROSS and purely by chance, a strong force of SS had been brought into MUNICH in the interval between GERNGROSS's last reconnaissance and the blocking of the roads and railways. This force immediately brought up heavy weapons against the FAB in their strong points in the city and there was heavy fighting throughout the night.

GERNGROSS himself, as soon as he had set the revolt in motion, had motored to General Ritter von EPP's house, near STARNBERG. Von EPP was told that he was, by virtue of action taken against GIESLER and General von WESTPHAL, the senior officer in the MUNICH area and he was invited to join the revolt. He refused, and was taken to Major BRAUN's headquarters. Major BRAUN, however, allowed von EPP to leave unescorted on an undertaking that he would go to the American lines. In fact, von EPP returned to the SS headquarters.

The interrogator met a large number of the young men of the movement at this headquarters. They stated that although they had been unable to hold the key places they had seized until the arrival of American troops, they had, during Friday night and Saturday, 27-28 April, fully engaged the SS forces in the MUNICH area. Thereby, they claimed they had made it impossible for them to offer resistance to the American

X Ceneral Siegfried WESTPHAL COTS TO KESSELRING SECRET

XX This must be 1755 PG Div.

Seventh Army, which entered the city on 29 April virtually without a shot being fired. The FAB suffered heavy casualties in this fighting, and in the subsequent man—hunt many of its members were rounded up and hanged or shot. Nevertheless, all felt that the revolt had been worth while, not only in its practical effect in rendering the defense of MUNICH by the SS impossible, but in showing the world that there were some Germans who were willing to risk their lives in striking a blow against the Nazis when, they asserted, there was some slight chance of success.

The FAB is extremely anxious to play an effective role in setting the administration of MUNICH and Bavaria on its feet again. It claims to have no particular political complexion but most of its prominent members seem to be left-of-center liberal democrats by conviction, even though they not only worked with the few surviving social democrats of MUNICH, but also had close contact with the Communist underground movement. However, according to GERNGROSS, when the rising came the Communists took no part in it, a subject on which he displays considerable bitterness.

THE VICTIMS SPEAK: THE CHILDREN OF BUCHENWALD

There are some 700 children still in Buchenwald, ranging from the age of 3 upwards. For the most part these children belonged to Jewish families imprisoned by the Nazis. Many of them have been in concentration camps since 1939, most of them are without parents and some have seen their parents killed before their eyes. During their years in concentration camps they have received no schooling, have read no children's books, have seen no movies, have enjoyed none of the normal sport of children.

Their bodies have become accustomed to a subsistence diet of 300 grams of bread and a litre of soup each day. In travelling, some of them have gone 6 to 7 days without receiving food, eating grass in the summer and snow in the winter. Those who lagged behind or fell by the wayside were shot. Although most of them are rachitic or tubercular or anaemic, there is something tough about their moral and emotional fibre and in a genuine sense many of them at the age of 10 or 14 are battle veterans. The things they are aware of, the things that were impressed in their memories and in their present consciousness, are not the ways of childhood but the ways of war: one has seen a woman give birth to a child in a box-car and bleed to death shortly afterwards; another has slept all night on a pile of dead bodies; a third has seen his elders biting each other's throats in the madness of starvation.

The emotional structure of these children resembles that of soldiers who have seen violence, suffering and death on a large scale and in a variety of forms. Some of this emerges in their responses to the question as to what should be done with the Germans:

- 14 year old: "30% of the German people should be burned as my mother was burned. Children should be torn away from their parents". (This child could not say just how the 30% should be chosen).
- 16 year old: "All Germans are to be put in concentration camps. Farmers say they don't believe the things that took place there. They should go in and see what it is like for themselves."

16 year old: "50% of the Germans should be burned, the way my mother was burned. 50% should be sent to concentration camps".

17 year old: "The Germans should all be sent to a field and made to dig a big pit and then they should all be shot as my mother was shot".

To the interrogator's question, "Should all Germans be killed?" this boy replied, "40% should be killed". "How would they be selected", he was asked?" "They should be lined up and treated the way the Jews were treated, one group to be killed, another to go for labor, etc."

These casual dealings with odd percentages like 30% and 40%, these distinctions between farmers and others, are not typical of the mental operations of 14-16 year old children. This ability to make distinctions is noticeable even in their general hatred of the Germans. They say that many of the older Germans civilians were decent and did not treat them badly. German children, however, stoned them and spit at them. The SS Totenkopf were the worst of all.

On the subject of their post-war future, too, these children display a reflective outlook. The Polish group, for example, definitely do not want to return to Poland. An inmate of the camp, acting as overseer of the children, told the interrogator that the children really did not know what they wanted and that they would be quite happy in Poland. He was overheard, however, and when he had departed the children hastily assured the interrogator most emphatically that they did not want to go back to Poland. There is general fear among them that anti-semitism has not yet been finally stamped out in Poland. One child added that since all their relatives in Poland were dead, why should they go back? Many of them said that they wanted to start a new life, if possible in America.

To these children, America is the golden symbol of the good life. Their answers to the question why they wanted to go to America indicate that these children have absorbed the stories about America that have been current for decades among the oppressed peoples of Europe. One said that it was "a good land" where "you would not get beaten by the Nazis"; another 14 year old said that all nations were equal in America and each person can live as he wants; a 16 year old said that America is a "cultural land" and "you can work at what you want"; a 17 year old said that in America one can "have a good job and can study and work for one's country".

NOTES ON INFORMATION MEDIA

The Previous Condition of Mental Servitude

A young woman in OCHSENFURT, discussing the books she has read in recent years, ventured the opinion that all Nazi books should be burned, except novels and histories — because she considers that these were neutral. This young lady belongs to that same large family of German minds as the AACHEN school teacher who, when asked whether the Nazis had interfered in any way with the school system replied:

"Oh no! There was absolute freedom of teaching but, of course, all the text books were changed."

There are so many areas of ignorance, by which is meant sheer ignorance of historical and political facts, that one finds among the German people a widespread ignorance of their own field of ignorance.

In a number of towns, interrogators have found that people are mainly concerned to receive information about local and family matters. One man indicated that the most urgent need of the community was for a Classified Ad section in the town's newspaper. He wants to know which of the local people has married, which has died, etc. He is also interested to get information about his sons. Although it is not widespread, there is also some interest in public matters. Several people are anxious to be informed about Allied plans for the occupation of Germany. The owner of a beauty shop in LERZBURG reported that the housewives among her clientele are most concerned about the future of the Mark, whether it will be devaluated or keep its old purchasing power. Concerning Allied newspapers which they have recently been receiving - Die Mitteilungen and Frankfurter Presse - the larger number of interrogees felt that, in comparison to their old paper, it lacked chiefly local news about markets, the weather, and family items, but several conceded: "We'll get used to the new names and if they reach us in sufficient numbers, we won't need a local paper".

A number of people were interrogated, prior to the capitulation, to determine their preferences as between Allied and German broadcasts. Few preferences were expressed, and few Germans considered them as mutually exclusive. All wanted to listen to Allied radio, but most wanted to hear the German radio as well. An interesting variety of reasons for the latter was presented: one young widow said she would like to listen simply out of curiosity; a young boy thought that the Wehrmacht communique had some truth in it, and wanted to listen to it (a reason now obsolete as there is no longer a Wehrmacht communique); another young lady prefers the musical entertainment on the German radio to that presented by Radio Luxembourg. One interrogee simply said that he would like to listen to German radio for no particular reason at all.

The Condition of Information Media

Personnel: Two new developments, curiously enough both within the confines of prison walls, hold out some promise that the supply of suitable personnel may increase in the near future. One was the beginning of a German language newspaper under Allied supervision, by German Ps/W in an Allied cage at COMPIEGNE. The other was the formation of an "International Press Section" by the inmates of Buchenwald camp, with the task of issuing daily news bulletins in the various languages of the inmates and of handling publicity about the camp for visiting journalists. It is intended that this organization become a permanent union of all journalists who were confined at Buchenwald and any others who wish to join. Its primary purpose is to convey the lessons of Buchenwald to the world. From such groups of professional journalists as those assembled at Buchenwald and at COMPIEGNE, may come some outstanding personnel for the future direction of a free German press.

Equipment: As to equipment, the situation varies considerably from town to town in direct proportion to the amount of physical destruction by Allied bombing and ground action. In FRANKFURT the premises of the following press targets were found to be mainly or totally destroyed:

Landesverband Rhein-Main im Reichsverband der deutschen Presse, Grosse Gallusstr. 16
Verlag der DAF, Rossmarkt 12
August Scherl, Frankfurt branch, Eschenheimer Tor 1
Rhein-Mainische Zeitung, Grosse Gallusstr. 21
Steuerverlag Schaefer, Liebigstr. 7
Moritz Diesterweg, Kl, Hirschgraben 12-14
Europapress, Ulmenstr. 27.

A similar amount of fairly widespread destruction was found with regard to theater and cinema targets. A fire at the film warehouse at Miguel Allee had destroyed many of the films on short subjects but a considerable number of prints and records have been salvaged, both from the warehouse and the Filmvertrieb offices of the company.

In LEIPZIG the situation was considerably more fortunate. Until American troops entered the city on 18 April two daily papers were being printed. Since this date they have been closed down, in compliance with the orders of the local M.G., but in both plants the machinery is in excellent working condition.

The two papers represent the two main types of newspaper functioning in Germany prior to the surrender. The Leipziger Neuste Nachrichten was an old privately owned conserv tive paper which has been printed since 1892 and was widely read in pre-Nazi Germany. Its present "owner" still holds 49% of the controlling stocks but the majority 51% has been taken over by "WERA", a holding company for newspapers which the Nazis used to obtain a controlling interest in any paper which they deemed it inexpedient to take over outright. The Neue Leipziger Tageszeitung, on the other hand, was owned by the Nazi Party and was the official Nazi paper for LEIPZIG. From the point of view of legal simplicity therefore, the Nazi-owned Tageszeitung can be taken over without much ado. This is fortunate, in as much as its plant is in perfect condition, and has not been touched by air raids. In addition to a rotary press and linotype machines it has all the necessary office facilities, and also has two independent sources of electric power. The plant of the Nachrichten has been bombed on several occasions but one section of the plant is still intact and contains all the machinery necessary for the production of the paper (including also a large rotary press). Both papers were turning out approximately 150,000 copies daily, and the two rotary presses can print this number of copies in about 32 hours, not including the time required for setting the type. There is a sufficient supply of paper in LEIPZIG to print a 4-page daily newspaper for at least 4 months. The source of paper supply for both newspapers was the factory at AMMENDORF near HALLE.

The majority of the technical personnel of both newspapers is still in LETPZIG, waiting for the order to return to work. The editors of both papers, however, have left town but for reasons that differ greatly in several cases. Dr DREXLER, editor of the Nachrichten was arrested by the Nazis in January of this year for certain remarks concerning the ineffectiveness of secret weapons and for predictions that the war would end within a year (with the clear implication that Germany would lose). Dr KOCH, editor of the official Nazi Tageszeitung, also left LEIPZIG, but under different conditions. A devoted Nazi, KOCH was a Sturmfuehrer in the SA. It is not known whether he left under orders or by his own volition, but in any case neighbors report that he left LEIPZIG on his bicycle on 22 April with the intention of going to DRESDEN. He has not been seen since.

The Giessener Anzeiger, founded in 1750, was until 1933 the main paper in GTESSEN. For over 100 years, until its suppression in 1943, it was owned by the BRUEHL and LANGE families and printed at the Bruehl'sche Universitaetsdruckerei (which was bombed out in December 1944). There are two other papers in GTESSEN. The Giessener Zeitung was privately owned by Herr KLEIN of the Klein'sche Druckerei until it went out of business in 1936, at which time another paper of the same name was started by the Party as the local Party organ for GTESSEN and FRANKFURT. Both KLEIN and LANGE participated in this local Party paper, as printer and editor respectively, but they claim of course that they did this only under compulsion. M.G. is anxious to start a paper in the town and since paper stocks and printing facilities are adequate to produce a 12-sheet weekly newspaper for 8/10 months, both of these gentlemen are now seeking a job. The other paper,

Oberhessische Tageszeitung, was the official Nazi Party paper for GIESSEN and was printed in FRANKFURT under the editorship of Pg. GANZERT.

In the salt mine at GRASLEBEN, target investigators found a wealth of naterial other than salt. This mine was an official storing place for the area. Both the owner of the mine and the chief supervisor are now in Allied custody. Although no complete inventory of the stores has yet been made, the following categories of material are likely to be of considerable value for the control of German information services:

There are not only materials of great intrinsic value for film production such as the 2-4,000 castings made of silver or copper, but also valuable archives such as the Reichsfilmarchiv which contains an apparently complete index of all films, German or foreign, ever held by the agents with catalogue numbers running as high as 16,000.

Reactions to Allied Instructions

It has not been possible to determine conclusively reactions of German farmers to the "Grow Food" campaign conducted by S.H.A.E.F. A check on the activities of farmers in the 3 U.S.Army area, however, has produced some evidence that they are reducing their output this year to a level which will satisfy their own needs and little more. The reasons for this are comparatively simple: the slave labor is going, or already gone, and the pressure of the German Food Ministry no longer exists. Investigators suggest that some means should be discovered to compel German farmers to cultivate crops which will cover the needs of city dwellers as well as their own.

S.H.A.E.F. instructions to displaced persons are widely known. Various suggestions for improvement have been made by some of the liberated displaced persons. For example, one D/P remarks that the present EISENHOWER instructions dwell exclusively on the negative side by listing a series of "Don'ts" and suggests that it would be useful to have instruction posters concerning positive directions on what to do; for example, to get food (i.e. contact the Buergermeister or M.G.O). French and Belgian D/Ps are particularly concerned to get information about conditions in their own towns. Many of them have been away so long that they know nothing at all about the situation in their home communities, or even general things like the price of wine, the possibilities of employment, the plans for reconstruction, etc. Other interrogators report that the Polish D/Ps "are among the most puzzled groups in the camps". Many would prefer to remain in Germany or Western Europe rather than return to a Poland whose political status is completely uncertain. Readers of the Polish section of "S.H.A.E.F" would like to know what is being done, and what they themselves must do, about their political future. A large number of these Polish D/Ps appeared to favor the Polish Government in LONDON over the LUBLIN Government. It is not clear whether this is an attempt to gain favor with the Western Allies; whether it is generated by the Nazi-inspired rumor that the Western Allies have decided to go to war against the U.S.S.R. soon after the capitulation of Germany; or whether it represents a genuine fear or dislike or distrust of Soviet policies in Poland.

Radio Luxembourg is very well-known indeed and most people interrogated have listened to it whenever they had either the receiving

sets or electrical power available. A large proportion of those interrogated have also listened to the BBC and several volunteered the information that they very much liked Soldatensender West, although jamming frequently interfered and made listening to this station a strain rather than a pleasure.

BROADCASTS OF OUR RUSSIAN ALLIES TO AND ABOUT GERMANY

Output in all languages until the 9th of May — when the news of the unconditional surrender of the German Armed forces was first released by Radio Moscow — was largely dominated by the capture of Berlin. Although Allied unity continued to be stressed, the emphasis was on the triumph of Soviet arms and its value to mankind. The general outlines of Russian policy to the Germans were clarified and repeated.

THE SOVIETS ADDRESS THE GERMANS

The main points of Soviet output to the Germans have been:

a. The irredeemable guilt of Party and economic leaders.

b. The responsibility of the German people.

c. The German people's chance of a new life on condition that they recognize their guilt, and willingly undertake to repair war damage in other countries.

Amongst the numerous items bringing out these points, a commentary broadcast over S.E.S. in German on the 7th of May is typical:

"...The Hitler rats are abandoning the sinking ship. They want the German people to pay for all their crimes. The Nazis drummed it into their people that the Red Army was bent on exterminating all Germans. But the German people can see for itself that the Red Army brings peace and justice. No one ever intended to wipe out the German people. This would stand in the most flagrant contrast to the ideals for which all peace—loving nations are fighting. Naturally the German people is responsible for the war and the destruction wrought by the German Armed forces. But no one will deny the German people the right to live if it is prepared to expiste its guilt. They have to make a resolute break with the past and prove their goodwill by obeying the instructions of the High Command of the Red Army and the Allies. The Soviet Union and the other United Nations will see to the destruction of Fascism and the punishment of war criminals. If the German people makes good its debt by honest reparation, it will open up for itself the road to a new life."

BERLIN UNDER SOVIET OCCUPATION

Press and radio have given many items on conditions in Berlin and its rapid return to life. The "Pravda" correspondent in Berlin reported that the population had been greatly calmed by Soviet leaflets and proclamations that the entire German people would neither be destroyed nor enslaved. According to Berlin's military commandant, there are at present about 2 million inhabitants in the city but the number

is increasing daily. The Berliners are returning from the surrounding villages and woods. The normal life of the town is gradually being reestablished. Soviet troops re-started the Klingenberg power station and repaired several waterworks. Where there is no water supply, Soviet cars bring water and distribute it. The bread, meat and vegetable rations are said to be considerably larger today than under Hitler. Soviet military authorities have opened the large cold storage houses on the Spree, the contents of which, meat, butter and preserves, had been kept for the Nazi leaders. Now these stores are being sent to the shops for the population. The Soviet military authorities are supplying coal for the power stations, restoring the water supply, the sewage system and commercial life. The Ringbahn is running again. District commanders have started appointing German burgomasters. The Commandant of the Friedrichsberg District, Lt. Col. Kuznetsov has appointed a non-Party man, a former lawyer by name of Paul Leike as the District burgomaster. People come to him with various problems. Some offer to work, others offer information on the whereabouts of military stores. The Commandant of Berlin has issued an order that every member of the Gestapo, the S.S. and S.A. and all subsidiary organizations, must report to the district Commandants in person. All party organizations are dissolved.

The Russians, too, are aware of threats to the non-fraternization policy. In a "Pravda" article on the 7th of May, Leonid Leonov (see Summary #32) writing on "The Russians in Berlin" said:

"Our patrols now stride through Berlin and German ladies gaze in their eyes invitingly, ready to begin payment of 'reparations' at once. It won't work ["

And he continues:

"The Soviet men are far less interested in them than they are in the job of making a thorough search of Berlin's attics, cellars and tube tunnels for Werewolves — that secret weapon of Germany's afterdeath... Never since its foundations has Berlin seen such an influx of tourists! All together, the Russians, Americans and British will convince themselves of the many centuries foulness of this town, which has been suffered for too long and quite unnecessarily by the world."

WAR CRIMINALS: DARRE AND DITTMAR

It may be significant that "Free Germany" should be used to denounce as war criminals leading personalities of the Hitler regime. On the 7th of May, Col. Luitpold Heidle gave a talk on the evils of Walther Darre's racial theories. He speaks of Darre as one of the greatest Nazi scoundrels captured by the Allies in the west. Arguing that because Hitler dropped him as minister a few years ago, S.S. General Darre thinks he might plead extenuating circumstances when his case comes up for trial. But, says Col. Heidle, Darre is one of those most responsible for this war and, apart from Hitler, one of the leading representatives of the Nazi Race Theory. His book Neuadel auf Blut und Boden (The New Aristocracy on Blood and Soil) played a decisive part in spreading racial hatred. Subsequently he was responsible for the racial policy of the S.S., as head of the S.S. office for Racial and Settlement problems. With the rank of Reichsleiter, he was able to go ahead with his "Ostland" policy. What Darre demanded and ruthlessly carried out meant the extermination of whole races — it meant Oswiecim, Buchenwald and all other places of gruesome butchery. Darre is the prototype of the Nazi criminals.

On 8 May, Dr. Guenther Schweitzer, speaking of the guilt of General Dittmar, refers to him as "Goebbel's disciple in General's uniform." There can be no doubt that Dittmar is a war criminal, Schweitzer

asserts. He is mistaken if he believes he can give himself up as a prisoner of war and be done with it. He seems to think people will take him for a harmless and decent man because he only stood at the microphone and did not stain his hands with blood — not directly, anyway. This is a great mistake. The wire pullers and inciters in the background are the most dangerous war criminals — and Dittmar is one of the worst of them. His crime against the world and the German people was that he continuously incited and roused the German people to fight and to die for Hitler. His slogan to hold out and persevere was a call to murder and suicide. The vagueness of the charges against Dittmar, as compared with those against Darre, is particularly interesting in view of reports by Allied interrogators that Dittmar considers himself part of that group in the Officers Corps with certain pro—Soviet sympathies.

REPORTS ON GERMAN ATROCITIES

A series of broadcasts, devoted to reports of the Extraordinary State Commission on atrocities committed by the Germans in the concentration camp at Oswiecim, has been initiated by the S.E.S. as well as the S.H.S. According to the first two broadcasts in this series, five million people of various nationalities were exterminated in this camp. Those unable to work were killed on arrival, others when they became too weak to work. Thousands of prominent scientists, artists, and men of culture were executed in the Oswiecim death factory organized by Himmler.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SOVIET CITIZENS IN GERMANY

In co-operation with P.W.D., S.H.A.E.F., Colonel-General Golikov has released the text for a proclamation to Soviet citizens in Germany, signed by Major-General Dragun, for use by B.B.C., A.B.S.I.E. and Radio Luxembourg. In addition to routine instructions as covered in similar S.H.A.E.F. appeals to other foreign nationals in Germany, General Dragun tells the Russians to organize themselves in camps under a senior member; to improve living conditions by organizing supplies, feeding and clothing of the needy from local sources in co-ordination with the Allied authorities; to remove all wire fences surrounding Russian communities; and not to submit to German administration. The appeal ends with a promise ensuring speedy return home of all Soviet citizens.

ROBERT A. McCLURE,
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Chief, Psychological Warfare Division

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