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GERMAN HOME FRONT

SIC TRANSIT ... : THE PASSING OF HITLER

(1) How They Took The News: Reactions to the news of HITLER's death varied considerably with the individuals interrogated in various places. The most striking common characteristic was stated by one interrogator :

"In general the announcement of Hitler's death was received with amazing indifference".

Partly, emotional reaction was lacking because of the confused beliefs about the way he died. Partly it was due to ignorance, on the morning after the official broadcast of the news, that he was dead. Mainly, however, there was no high-pitched reaction because his death was not unexpected. People somehow had a feeling that "his number was up". With surprising unanimity people accepted without question the view that he was, in fact, dead.

An interrogator at WEIMAR who spoke with 19 Germans, found "no visible regret" among any of the interrogees. Not even the former Nazis seemed to attach much importance to his death. With one exception, in fact, people seemed "almost relieved". Another interrogator who spoke with 11 Germans in JENA, reported a similar reaction. One middle-aged pair and their two boarders got drunk when they heard the news in celebration of the imminent peace which they felt would shortly follow HITLER's death. From MEPPEN a 21 Army Group interrogator who spoke with 11 assorted Germans reports that one student felt "something", although she did not know exactly what, when she heard he was dead :

"The remainder all were completely unmoved, some having expected that this would happen, and all feeling, with relief, that this would bring the end of the war nearer".

(2) The Official Version: Even discounting the fact that Germans tend to tell interrogators what they think they would like to hear instead of what they believe to be the truth, it seems fairly clear that the official German version of how death came for HITLER was widely disbelieved. Of the 19 people interrogated in WEIMAR only 3 believed the official account of HITLER's death; 6 were undecided; all the rest considered it simply as a propaganda device. Those who flatly rejected the official version believed either that HITLER had been dead for some time or that he committed suicide or that HIMMLER had him killed. The connection of HIMMLER with his Fuehrer's death is made by several people who knew that HIMMLER had announced he was very ill only two days before his death. One of the interrogees, a secretary at the electrical works near WEIMAR, said that at the plant "practically" everybody believed that HITLER was actually dead and that he had either committed suicide or been liquidated by HIMMLER, but that "nobody" believed that he had fallen at the head of his troops. Some doubt as to the official version was aroused as well by the announcement on 30 April that HITLER had appointed his successor. One young widow and her friend had heard Soldatensender West broadcast that an official announcement of HITLER's death was being prepared and for this reason they had no faith in the official version when it came.

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The sentiment of those few who actually believed the official version was best expressed by a 48 year old policeman from the Rhineland:

"SO EIN ENDE HATTEN WIR BESTIMMT ERWARTET. DIESER MANN WAR VERBRECHER, ABER KEIN FEIGLING".

(We had expected an end like this. This man was a criminal but not a coward.)

This view was hotly contested by a 52 year old restaurateur who considers the official version a fabrication designed to make a hero and martyr out of HITLER, and asserts that suicide was the only way out for a man of HITLER's mentality.

(3) The Significance Of His Death: Opinions varied more widely on the significance of HITLER's death for the future of Germany. One person said :

"SEIN TOD IST WOHL DIE BESTE LOESUNG"

(His death is probably the best solution.)

Another German, a rather more thoughtful type, with his eye on the years ahead, said :

"JA WAS KANN MAN DA SAGEN, DIESER TOD WIRD KEINE LOESUNG SEIN FUER DAS DEUTSCHE VOLK. SO ODER SO WIR MUESSEN DIE FOLGEN TRAGEN"

(What can one say, this death is no solution for the German people. One way or the other we will have to bear the consequences.)

The comment of a 30 year old house-wife with 3 children on her hands, whose husband is a prisoner in the U.S.A., seems to be as much a comment on her own autobiography as on the death of HITLER :

"DAS BEENDET DAS TRAURIGSTE KAPITEL DER DEUTSCHEN GESCHICHTE"
(This is the end of the saddest chapter of German history.)

(4) The Significance Of His Life: Most comments on HITLER's death were, in the absence of any genuine feeling about the event as such, rather more significant as observations on the significance of HITLER's life. One refugee from DRESDEN, a 52 year old doctor, considered it was tragic that the only fighter against bolshevism had to die a hero's death before he could see the Western Allies take up arms with Germany against the Russians. "We will see the truth of this sooner than we think", he said with the sage air of many Germans who discuss this subject. Others took up the theme of HITLER as a unique hero in different contexts, but with sufficient clarity to show that HITLER is still regarded by many Germans as singularly, almost divinely, heroic and not to be confused with petty politicians who attach themselves to him.

"DAS ABLEBEN DIESES MANNES MUSS DOCH VON JEDEM AUFRICHTIGEN DEUTSCHEN BEDAUERT WERDEN. DIE KLEINEN 'HITLERS' UM IHN HERUM WAREN SCHULD DASS UNSER VOLK INS UNGLUECK GESTUERZT WURDE"

(The death of this man must be regretted by every sincere German. The little 'Hitlers' were responsible for the unhappiness of our people.)

The man who uttered these words was also a doctor, a 42 year old Sudeten-deutscher, who claims that he was never a Party member, but simply an average German.

Interrogation of 15 civilians in PAPENBURG, before the death of HITLER had been announced, revealed that 5 maintained their belief in HITLER unshaken to the very end. One student said plainly that he always has admired HITLER and still does, a laborer admired HITLER personally and said he just did not know what was going on behind his back. Four interrogees had maintained their faith in HITLER until 1942, at which date they began to lose confidence in his inspired leadership (1942 was the year of STALINGRAD). Five interrogees said they never had believed in or admired HITLER but for a variety of reasons : one because he was a good Catholic; another because she still had memories of the free Youth Movements before 1933; a third because her husband had been drafted for work in Norway, leaving her with 4 children and an inadequate family allowance. Of all those interrogated, only one put his antipathy to HITLER in clearly moral terms. A 62 year old type-setter in JENA said :

"DER SCHANDFLECK DER UEBER 12 JAHRE AUF DEUTSCHLAND RUHTE
IST BESEITIGT, ABER DAS GROSSE LEID KANN NICHT MEHR GUT
GEMACHT WERDEN SOLANGE ICH LEBEN WERDE ! "

(The stigma and shame which hung over Germany for the last 12 years has been eradicated. But the misery brought upon all people cannot be repayed as long as I live.)

THE CAGEY PERFORMANCE AT FLENSBURG

[For three days after the official termination of hostilities the Flensburg station continued to broadcast to German home listeners. Three days were enough to provide adequate evidence that the Germans, if left even slightly on their own, would take every opportunity to disorganize the Allied victory. The station was mainly concerned with the transmission of straight news items without commentary, but these were selected in such a way as to highlight political difficulties among the Allies.] (1) ?

In addition there were featured talks of DOENITZ, von KROSIGK, and others which gave support to the main themes which those who remain of German officialdom consider to be in their interest. These broadcasts were designed to promote two main purposes.

The first purpose was to deflect responsibility and guilt from the Armed Forces on to scapegoats already thoroughly compromised (the Nazi Party, HITLER, or some nameless force). To this end statements by RUNDSTEDT and FALKENHORST were publicized, and the soldiers of the German Wehrmacht were assured they had every reason to be proud of themselves - they had fought the good fight and had been overcome through no fault of their own. The German Naval High Command then rushed to the microphone, using the Kiebitz Wehrmachtssender on 16 May, to assure an anxious world that the Navy, always true-blue, had stuck to its gallant traditions throughout. Concerning the recent disclosures by Allied press and radio of German atrocities in concentration camps, the High Command had authorized itself to state that the Navy was not involved and need not be disturbed. Of course such camps were necessary, said the Navy, but the excesses "which are said to have occurred (angeblich)" are sharply condemned. (P)

The second purpose was to reassure the German people, without actually saying so (for this they dared not do), that German leaders were still running the show. The German people were ordered to remember that they are Germans and act accordingly. The channels of command were represented as German channels. An excellent illustration was the announcement on the evening of 11 May by Field Marshal BUSCH, that :

The only one

"By order of the Grand Admiral, and in agreement with the British occupation authorities, I have taken over command of Schleswig-Holstein and all the areas occupied by the troops of Field Marshal Montgomery".

BUSCH specified his task as being to "safeguard order and discipline" and to see that military and civilian supplies were maintained - in pursuance of which "all military and civil authorities in my section have been subordinated to me". He expected "unquestioning devotion to duty and obedience to this order".

Earlier that day Flensburg put out a series of news broadcasts dealing with such matters as the proposed plans of the Allies for German schools; the possibility that another Big Three Conference would be held "to try to bring order into the political muddle which Europe presents today"; the continuance of the call-up in Britain; the prospects of difficulties over the repatriation of American troops from Europe because of shipping space problems, and "a statement by the British Foreign Minister in SAN FRANCISCO on the Polish impasse". In one broadcast STALIN's message to CHURCHILL "expressing his belief in a happy future of collaboration between Great Britain and the Soviet Union" was given prominence, and another item alluded to "the conflict" at TRIESTE. Allied newspapers were frequently quoted.

On the next day the attention of German listeners was drawn to a number of decrees issued by the Allied Military Government. These included the dissolution of the National Socialist Party and its laws; the prohibition of public radio transmissions, theaters and cinemas, and all kinds of stage and musical entertainments. Curfew hours were announced. The phrasing of these announcements provide an interesting case study of semantic jugglery, in which the "slant" was kept just shallow enough to stay this side of sabotage. On the Polish situation Flensburg pointed out that, according to London reports appearing in the Swiss press, the three Foreign Ministers had now handed over the case to their heads of Government. STALIN had resumed negotiations, it was announced, which would only be concluded when the question had been solved. At present, however, it was pointed out that, according to the same sources, the date of the solution of the problem did not seem near.

The third and last day of broadcasting was confined largely to straight news broadcasts. One of the items of propaganda import was the use of the London Observer comment on the MOSCOW trial of Polish leaders. "A special correspondent of the Observer states that preparations in MOSCOW for the trial of the Polish leaders, arrested by the Russians, are in full swing. The report adds that the admission of unbiased and politically unprejudiced lawyers from Allied countries must be regarded as a minimum guarantee for a proper trial".

WHAT THE FOREIGN WORKERS ARE THINKING

A series of interrogations in the 7 U.S. Army area indicates clearly the powerful pull of homeland among foreign workers. There had been earlier signs that foreign workers, for a variety of reasons, would be content to stay on in Germany - at least for a limited period and under such favorable conditions as employment by the Allied armies. The evidence from the Seventh Army area, although limited, indicates that this feeling is no match for the sentiment of home. Particularly among those who have no reason to fear the consequences of their return, absence has indeed made the heart grow fonder. When asked whether they would remain in Germany at good wages for another six months, the reaction among interrogees was sharply negative. Even among the comparatively better-treated, or at least better-fed, farm workers, there is no

evidence of a desire to remain on German farms. Nor does the prospect of being employed by the Allied armies or Governments instead of by Germans seem to counteract, in most cases, the dominant desire to go home.

The interesting question has been raised as to whether the unprecedented conditions which have existed in Germany, with millions of men of many nations thrown together for several years, encouraged any breakdown of national feeling together with an emergence of a new feeling of internationalism. Such evidence as there is suggests that this did not occur, but rather that the old national loyalties retained their power. In fact, members of each nation are apt to pride themselves upon the superior strength of national loyalties within their own group. Nor, moreover, is there any evidence of new political crystallizations either national or international. The political atomization of the foreign workers, a deliberate aspect of the Nazi propaganda among them, was very nearly complete.

It is clear that the foreign workers themselves distinguish among Germans. For the most part, the distinction is not between Nazis and non-Nazis, for the foreign workers had little access to information about the political convictions of their supervisors and are themselves not very sophisticated politically. The usual distinction is between the "good guys" and the "bad guys" -- those who treated them badly and those who were decent. Occasionally their attitudes toward Germans are defined in political terms. As one 30 year old French gas company employee put it: "The Nazis are the profiteers, the others are the imbeciles who must follow them".

One consequence of the non-political complexion of the foreign workers is that the outbursts of vengeance against Germans, which had earlier been predicted by many Germans, failed to occur. Interrogation indicates that desire for vengeance is quite personal and specific, usually framed in reference to individual Nazis who had actually beaten or otherwise maltreated individuals. Foreign workers admit that they did engage in some looting, but deny that it was widespread, and point out that Germans looted at least as much, in some cases much more, than they did.

The suggestion that some Nazi doctrines may have taken root among the foreign workers, is usually met with stout and indignant denials, but such processes are of a subtle nature and the final answer to this problem would doubtless require more intensive investigation. One 34 year old Belgian accountant pointed out, for example, that the social protection afforded German workers made a deep impression upon workers from other countries. The impact of the clean and modern German cities upon the minds of foreign workers, particularly those from the technologically less advanced Eastern lands, has already been discussed in this Summary. Such impressions leave their mark despite any explicitly negative reaction to overt Nazi propaganda.

Exposure Of Foreign Workers To Allied Propaganda

(1) Leaflets: Allied leaflets have found their way rather frequently into the hands of foreign workers. They remember leaflets which impressed them, as far back as 1943. A leaflet of July 1943 pointing to the uselessness of further fighting was recalled. Others included a leaflet of July 1944 exposing the lies of GOEBBELS, and one of February 1945 with a map showing the progress of the invasion of Germany and describing the earlier bombardment of LONDON and ROTTERDAM. Several more recent leaflets have been produced by interrogees who held on to them as souvenirs. Those actually seen by interrogators include the announcement of MONTGOMERY's crossing of the lower Rhine, and the

leaflet pointing out that 900,000 German prisoners were taken between the invasion and the failure of the RUNDSTEDT offensive. These leaflets were usually found in the fields or woods, avidly read and passed around to one's comrades. None of our interrogees reports any concrete action taken as a result of the leaflets, but all indicate joy and satisfaction at receiving them. One effect was to lessen their belief in the German news. In some cases the leaflets were actually passed on to Germans whom they could trust. One group reports writing the slogan "Fuer Friede gegen Nazi" on German Marks and scattering them in the streets, but it is not clear as to whether this was directly inspired by any of our leaflets.

(2) Radio: Listening to Allied radio, which was somewhat more hazardous than finding a leaflet in an open field, seems to have been engaged in only by those fortunate few who had access to a radio at such times as no German officials were about. Such an opportunity might present itself to personnel of the camp office when the Germans were away at meals. Sometimes listening was carried out at the home of a German anti-Nazi. They listened to BBC in the early days and later to Luxembourg and to Paris.

In general, the foreign workers seem to have kept themselves reasonably well informed from the Allied radio, from news relayed by friends, from our leaflets, and from the German radio, which they learned to interpret shrewdly.

NOTES ON THE INFORMATION MEDIA

1. RADIO FACILITIES IN THE SHAEF AREA

It has now been possible to achieve an overall survey of the situation in the SHAEF area of Germany as regards broadcasting facilities with results that are on the whole calculated to assist considerably the task of Information Control. A factor which does much to contribute to this result is the standard German practise of erecting their most powerful transmitters (COLOGNE, STUTTGART, MUNICH, LEIPZIG, HAMBURG) in pairs, so that one could be used for jamming Allied broadcasts. In all, 13 transmitters are in full working order, viz: STUTTGART, LEIPZIG (2), NORDEN (for BREMEN), NUREMBERG, HAMBURG (2), FLENSBURG, TOENNING, WILHEIMSHAVEN, MUNICH (2) and BREMEN. Another powerful transmitter at STUTTGART and 3 smaller ones west of the Rhine call only for minor repairs. On the other hand, transmitters at COLOGNE, HANNOVER, FRANKFURT, KASSEL and KATERSLAUTERN are seriously damaged or completely wrecked. The low-power transmitter at FREIBURG-in-BREISGAU has yet to be reconnoitred. In addition, 11 short-wave transmitters have been captured intact, as well as 3 long-wave 20 kw. mobile ones.

Tubes and other spare parts are available in adequate quantities, while it seems fairly clear that operations will not be hampered by lack of electric power. The position is not so good as regards studios but the necessary arrangements can probably be contrived. The landlines between the various transmitters have also suffered considerable damage with the result that it will be some time before any extensive relay could be arranged. But on the whole the upshot of the survey is that the problem of replacement is going to be less serious on the material than on the human side. From observations so far made (which correspond with indications received in advance) it appears that a fairly high percentage of the engineering and technical personnel are Party members, whose removal is going to make the manning of the transmitters a difficult matter.

At the moment the only transmitters operating are one at HAMBURG and one at MUNICH, both of which are relaying Radio Luxembourg.

2. TARGETS IN FRANKFURT A/M

The Saalburg Museum: This famous institution suffered no harm from Allied military action, but was considerably damaged by Wehrmacht activity on the premises. The main hall was converted into an airplane motor repair shop and the adjoining wings were used as storehouses for rubber tires, airplane engines, blankets, mess equipment and other objects most incongruous in a museum devoted to Roman civilization. Much damage was caused by the Wehrmacht in the shifting of exhibits and piling up of equipment. The museum is a commentary on Nazi "Kulturpropaganda" - by converting it into an aviation motor repair shop they made it a legitimate target for Allied military action. Had we taken such action the Nazis would have screamed "barbarians !" to high heaven. However, no apologies seem to have been made for the damage, some of it quite gratuitous, caused by the Wehrmacht.

Further evidence of the Wehrmacht's interest in culture, particularly in mobile objets d'art, is seen in the two small buildings, previously used for the storing and restoration of broken Roman pottery, which were converted into storehouses for assorted loot. The loot included thousands of pairs of women's shoes, mirrors, shaving sets and similar objects, mostly from France.

The Granzberg Schloss: This castle was taken over by Gauleiter Jakob SPRENGER as his home and Gau headquarters when Allied bombers made FRANKFURT A/M too hot for him. Comparatively few records were found. Those records recovered were mainly of CIC interest and were turned over to that organization. The castle had its own power plant, a broadcasting and receiving unit, and Fernsprecher equipment, some of which seems to be in good condition and suitable for reclaiming. The lack of records seems to substantiate claims of informants in FRANKFURT A/M that most of the vital Gau records were burned by the Nazis before the advent of our troops.

3. PUBLICATIONS IN LEIPZIG

An Allied officer, specialist in German publications, arrived in LEIPZIG to find that publishers in this city, like German businessmen in many other cities, had already begun to organize themselves with an eye very much on the main chance. These publishers had a considerable organizational advantage in the existence of the Boersenverein, the traditional control agency of German publishers. Officials of the Boersenverein had read Military Government Law 191, apparently very carefully, for from their reading they had inferred much of what our control procedure was to be. They then acted on their own initiative, instructed book dealers to dispose of "undesirable publications", and to sell nothing until they had received permission to do so from the M.G. officials. By the time the Allied officer reached LEIPZIG the more unsavoury Nazi publications had been neatly collected, wrapped and deposited in cellars, and individual book sellers had begun to bring forth from these same cellars carefully collected and neatly wrapped packages of books which the Nazis had found unpalatable. A considerable amount of horse sense seems to have been used in the choice of new books with which to fill their shelves, although here and there some bizarre work such as a "Life of Trotsky" had blossomed forth anew. Political publications of any sort were not seen. For the most part, the new selection consisted of lighter weight travel-books and such. A casual examination of the 45 titles displayed by one book seller in LEIPZIG revealed only two titles which, on the surface, there was any reason to suspect as possible repositories of Nazi ideology.

This remarkable activity must be seen in its proper context. The de-lousing instructions issued by the Boersenverein were not issued simply because German publishers have all become good boys. The sad fact, as these publishers explained to their interrogator, was simply that these Nazi books had become a glut on the market. During the past 2 years, particularly, National Socialist literature has not sold and German publishers have steadily reduced their output in this field. One of the main explanations given by the publishers for the decrease was that the troops simply would not read the stuff and kept asking for more interesting reading material. In such a situation it was simply good business sense to take the first available opportunity to rid one's shelves of unwanted merchandise for a line of goods more popular with the customers (when there are customers).

From the vetting point of view, LEIPZIG publishers divided easily into 3 classes : White, Grey and Black. The White publishers, who are best exemplified by Insel Verlag, include only a very few who have never published a Nazi author or hired a Nazi in any responsible position. As a consequence their output in recent years has been decreased and confined largely to such innocuous themes as "How to Grow a Vegetable Garden". The Black publishers include such firms as Eher Verlag, whose publishing activity was devoted entirely to Nazi authors and Nazi themes. Naturally these publishers have flourished in recent years. The third and largest class of publishers are the Greys : those who published occasional Nazi authors to keep from being closed down by the officialdom or from going bankrupt by any responsible system of double entry book-keeping. However, their activities were not exclusively Nazi. Occasionally they published such items as "The Moisture Content of Colloids and Suspensions" or the biography of St Augustine.

It is not possible to determine with any exactitude the position as regards publishing materials, but it seems likely that a considerable amount of such materials will be available. Publishers began decentralization with the first heavy raids on LEIPZIG in April 1933. 11 big caches of rare and precious books belonging to the Deutsche Buckerei were set up, mainly in private junker estates. These caches, most of which are concentrated between the Mulde and Saale rivers, contain specimen copies of all books published in Germany during the last 50 years. They are now under military guard provided by M.G.

4. GERMAN AUTHORS : A CASE HISTORY

Ernst JUENGER is now 50 years old. His career is a strange one, but reflects at least one important aspect of the dualism which German writers have always found in the German character. During World War I, at the age of 19, he was an enthusiastic Ober-Lieutenant in the Imperial German Army, and was awarded the Order Pour le Merite. During the present war he served as a Captain in the French campaign and became Staff Officer in General STUELPNAGEL's Headquarters in PARIS. Between the two wars, he was a literary hero of Germany's ultra-nationalistic youth, was widely quoted by the early N.S. press, and received two notes of praise from HITLER, all this as a result of his book about his battle experiences in 1914-18.

Late in 1939 he published his book "Auf den Marmorklippen" (On the Marble Cliffs). A FWD interrogator who has studied the book, reports that it is an allegory, written in very excellent German, which is clearly but not explicitly directed against certain Nazi concepts.

"The central character is an Ober-foerster (Chief Forrester), the leader of a barbaric anarchy that first threatens and then destroys a dreamlike civilized empire. There are a great many veiled but unmistakeable allusions to National Socialism : symbol of the Chief Forrester's terror and

barbarism is a Schinderhuetten, a shack where all sorts of animals are skinned. Then there are two aristocrats: one, a prince, is depicted as the technician of power who thinks in terms of masters and slaves. The other, a decadent and sickly scion of an old aristocratic family, is completely passive and listless, with only occasional moments of self-consciousness."

After the book was published JUENGER fell into disgrace. GOEBBELS prevented the German press from mentioning his 50th birthday in March of this year. His son, a 17 year old private in the Wehrmacht, was denounced for a remark to his comrades that the war would be lost by Autumn 1944 and that HITLER should be strung up. He was immediately arrested and clapped into jail for six months. After release, arranged through the intervention of JUENGER's high-ranking friends, the boy died rather symbolically on the marble cliffs of CARRARA in Italy.

At the present time JUENGER seems to be strongly opposed to the Nazis and accepts, although probably with some serious reservations, the thesis of the collective guilt of the German nation. (JUENGER himself knows all about the extent and details of Nazi atrocities; he seemed, in fact, to be strangely fascinated by physical torture and the mechanics of brute force). Toward war criminals he takes a "hard" line: he would like to see prison sentences excluded from the lists of punishments in favor of a simple verdict of death or acquittal. JUENGER thinks that Germans, particularly liberated K.Z. prisoners, should be used as plaintiff in any legal proceedings against the Nazis. As to personal plans, however, JUENGER says he wants to "wait and see" before he undertakes any new literary projects. He does not however show any anxiety to take a prominent part now in denouncing the Nazis, which he claims to have done more eloquently and courageously in his book "Auf den Marmorklippen"! In fact, he does not want to indulge in polemics at all, and claims that his interest lies only in "objective use of history, past and present". (In this distaste for polemics JUENGER displays the weariness - or wariness - characteristic of most Germans at the present time).

JUENGER was reticent regarding suggestions as to what ought to be done about German writers and literature. He thinks that first of all an inventory ought to be taken on Germany's creative potentialities, for he is inclined to represent himself as a lone figure in Germany's recent literary life. He believes that there is no circle of German writers, however small, which we could use as a nucleus. Even his former friends among the literati are no longer reliable: in this connection he mentions Hans CAROSSA, who accepted the Presidency of the Reichsschrifttumskammer, an act for which JUENGER never forgave him. The German writers who stayed in Germany but kept their hands clean all seem to have been in prison or otherwise to have disappeared. He considers Ernst MERKISCH, who since 1936 has been prisoner of the Nazis and more recently an inmate of the Brandenburg penitentiary, the best example of this type. Among those writers who left Germany under the Nazis, he most admires Thomas MANN. However, this German officer of two wars brought the interview around full circle at this point. The trouble with Thomas MANN, says JUENGER, is that he did not attack the Versailles Treaty strongly enough during the 'twenties.

BROADCASTS OF OUR RUSSIAN ALLIES TO AND ABOUT GERMANY1. VICTORY IN EUROPE

After announcement of the unconditional surrender, Soviet press and radio devoted themselves to accounts of the celebration. Victory was saluted in MOSCOW by 30 salvoes of 1,000 guns. By decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, 9 May was celebrated as the official day of Victory and Marshal STALIN broadcast in person. The Marshal said that Germany was utterly defeated, but pointed out that the U.S.S.R. did not intend either to dismember or to destroy Germany. Throughout the day messages from well-known Soviet personalities were broadcast. Most of them stressed Russia's contribution to victory, with occasional friendly references to the Western Allies. Appearing in Pravda for the first time since ALEXANDROV's article on 14 April, Ilya EHRENBURG followed the line of other victory articles :

"Yugoslavs, Poles and Czechoslovaks know who brought them freedom. They see their Soviet brothers' graves. Far away too, in PARIS, OSLO, BRUSSELS and MILAN, people bless the Red Army that dealt the deadliest blow to Europe's jailers. Our Allies fought shoulder to shoulder with us and fidelity conquered guile."

2. WAR CRIMINALS : THEIR AIMS

Soviet press and radio have noted with concern the treatment of high-ranking German war prisoners by the Allied armies. Moscow radio quoted at length U.S. and British press comments deprecating the Allied treatment of captured German leaders. The GOERING and GUDERIAN incidents were not only criticized, but were used as an occasion for sermons against the danger of Fascism in general, and particularly against German attempts to divide the Allies with the aim of preserving the basis of German militarism and imperialism. In the Russian view, the recently published declarations of the Generals and leaders of defeated Germany are mainly designed to misrepresent the picture of Germany's military defeat. (See above : "The Cagey Performance at Flensburg"). These declarations reveal a previously elaborated plan which has a twofold aim. The military aim is to save the German General Staff by trying to absolve the Generals from responsibility for HITLER's policy. The political aim is to spread disunity among the Allies.

The Soviet press is particularly indignant that GOERING, GUDERIAN, DITTLER and others should be given a chance to air their views to correspondents :

"What cannot be understood is why Anglo-Saxon correspondents reported GOERING's fairy tales about his quarrel with HITLER and why, generally speaking, GOERING gave an interview to correspondents instead of answering the questions of an investigating officer. Friends, cocktails, martinis and roast chicken cannot pacify Hitlerite gangsters. The instrument for proper pacification is the rope - and the Anglo-Saxon correspondents should go back to Hollywood to interview the stars." (S.E.S. in Czech 15.5.45)

3. GERMANY UNDER SOVIET RULE

First Newspaper in BERLIN: According to the Soviet Home Service, the first issue of the Taegliche Rundschau, published in BERLIN by the Soviet Command, appeared on 15 May. It contained congratulatory telegrams to the Soviet Government from Allied Nations on the great day of victory. In addition it carried the Berlin Commandant's announcement to the population of BERLIN concerning the details of the new rationing system.

The second issue printed the last communique of the Soviet Information Bureau, devoted the last page to opinions and comments of Berliners on the new rationing system. A civilian wrote that rations were better than under the Nazis. A teacher said: "We have been granted complete freedom of worship and representatives of cultural professions have the same rations as men on heavy manual work". A Catholic priest said: "The measures taken to distribute food supplies in BERLIN are warmly acclaimed by everyone. It is significant that teachers and clergymen are put on an equality with manual workers as regards rations".

Notes on Entertainment Control: The Military Commandant of BERLIN, Colonel General BIERZHARIN, spoke on 14 May to a meeting of about 200 artists, among them the famous actors Paul WEGENER, Maria HOPPE and the composer WESTERHANN. The General declared that the Soviet Authorities would support the reopening of theaters, cinemas and all related places of cultural entertainment. The old musician ULLRICH, speaking in the name of all the artists present, assured that the theaters were all set and prepared to resume work. By decision of the Soviet Supreme Command all artists are to receive the same rations as workers engaged in heavy manual labor. All scientific research and educational institutions will soon resume work in BERLIN.

In reply to a question, General BIERZHARIN said that Soviet films with German captions would soon be released and German film studios could begin making German-sound tracks for Soviet films. Cinemas in BERLIN are now showing such films as "Lenin in 1918", "Peter I", "Grunya Kornakova". The first concerts are taking place in BERLIN. A concert of the full orchestra of the CHARLOTTEBURG Opera House was scheduled to take place on 19 May, and on 20 May a grand concert of the BERLIN Philharmonics.

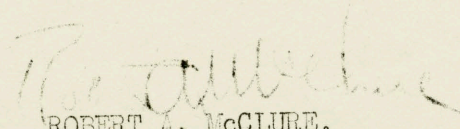
Graz radio on 16 May broadcast an announcement by the Soviet Town Commandant saying that since the population of that town had displayed complete loyalty toward the Red Army, the order concerning the compulsory handing over to radio receivers was rescinded. The inhabitants could use their receivers until further notice.

Things Move in BERLIN: The Soviet Home Service on 15 May, describing the situation in BERLIN, said that three big sections of the underground would be in use by 25 May. Trams will begin running soon on twelve main city lines. 10,000 blocks of flats will soon have electric light. Banks are opening and are paying out wages to workers. Unrestricted round-the-clock traffic is allowed in BERLIN.

4. CONDITIONS IN SOUTH GERMANY

A Free Germany broadcast from MOSCOW on 17 May announced the following item, without further definition or comment:

"The Swiss Radio, reporting on the situation in South Germany, says that food supplies are insufficient, the curfew is strictly enforced; postal communications are forbidden; all entertainment places are closed. Many of the people are employed in clearing debris in the towns".


ROBERT A. McCLURE,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
Chief, Psychological Warfare Division

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