

Washington Digest

Nazi Influence Remains To Vex Allied Control

Indoctrination of Youth and Lethargy of Mass Of People Obstacle to Efforts to Reconstitute Beaten Nation.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

(This is the first of two articles by Mr. Baukhage revealing how the results of Hitler's "planned terror" are making it hard for the Americans to "run" Germany.)

The hearings of the Kilgore subcommittee on war mobilization concluded in the last weeks of congress and are to be resumed next September. Testimony before the committee has revealed certain "secret documents" showing plans on the part of various German industrialists to subsidize a Nazi underground party.

The purpose of the hearings, Senator Kilgore's associates tell me, is to prepare the United States against a future recrudescence of German militarism.

If such underground organizations exist and continue to exist it will be necessary to hunt them out of their hiding places if we can. This is going to be especially difficult since some of those hiding places undoubtedly will be on foreign territory and it may not be easy to reach across the frontiers of nations not too unfriendly to the Nazi-Fascist idea.

Meanwhile there is an immediate problem to be faced and that is the practical task of "running Germany," something which it is generally admitted is going to be harder than we thought.

There are many baffling factors of a purely physical aspect which enter into the scheme but I do not intend to deal with them here. I want to talk about the psychological problem which is recognized by trained observers on the scene but perhaps not as fully understood as it might be.

It may be recalled that some months ago there appeared in these columns an exposition of the organization and the indoctrination of the German people and the integration of all elements in Germany into a single unit, created for the purpose of waging total war. This dealt with the positive steps taken in the training of the youth and conversion or compulsion exerted over such of the older generation as were sufficiently pliable. In this and a succeeding article I propose to deal with what might be called a program of negotiation since its purpose was to destroy the quality of resistance to Nazism on the part of those too old or too stubborn to accept, actively or passively, the Nazi regime. It is what I have alluded to as the program of "planned terror."

Nazification Extended To All Classes

First, it must be remembered that since the Nazis were in full power for about 12 years and the real indoctrination of the Germany youth began at about the age of 12, there might be presumed to remain a group of middle-aged Germans who escaped the full blight of Nazi indoctrination. Normally they would be the ones most likely to offer collaboration with the American or other officials and most amenable to an acceptance of democratic methods and beliefs.

Of course, there are some such. On the other hand, although this group who by age or inclination were less favorable to Nazification, the majority have not escaped the effects of Nazi rule. These men were brought up in a more or less normal 20th century atmosphere, regimented to some extent, it is true and with the long tradition of German militarism behind them, but at root a kindly, businesslike, churchgoing folk whose evils were environmental and not necessarily hereditary as they proved when they left home and settled on our shores.

They are the ones in Germany whom we blame for failing to arise and overthrow the Hitler regime, for accepting it and its inhumanities. We find them now, according to most of the persons who have visited Germany, befuddled, submissive, yet resentful; but honestly rejecting all personal, individual responsibility for war guilt of Germany and the atrocities of the Nazis. For the most part they have proved about as valuable in assisting in the governing of their country as a large piece of slightly rancid dough.

To meet this and other conditions existing in the Allied zone of occupation, the psychological warfare division of supreme headquarters has a special program worked out. (And don't be frightened at the \$64 title of that organization—a lot of our boys are alive today because of its assault on the enemy as you will learn some day.)

Aim to Reorient German Mind

A part of the aim of the American program is to help maintain order, and its long-range objective is described as "reorienting the German mind, after 12 years of Nazism."

General McClure, head of the psychological warfare division, explains the immediate objectives of the information bureau of his division as "(1) to maintain and deepen the mood of passive acquiescence and acceptance of orders to the German people, and so to facilitate the completion of the occupation of Germany; (2) to undertake special campaigns required by military government, and (3) to take the first steps toward arousing a sense of collective responsibility for Germany's crimes and to provide the facts which expose the fatal consequences of Nazi and militarist leadership and German acquiescence in them."

General McClure realizes that step number three is a long one and a high one. At present the American occupation officials are in a somewhat paradoxical position. They are expected to maintain strict military discipline and in the same breath in which they order, "Stand at attention," they have to say, "Now think for yourself!" And furthermore the Nazis have done all that is humanly possible—or I should say, inhumanly possible—to see that there is nothing left of initiative or individual responsibility in Germany. Having created this state of chaos, they hope to gain an interim in which to strengthen their underground.

It is not organized resistance which the American occupation is meeting. Out of 10,000,000 or more Germans in the American zone, so far less than 4,000 have been jailed for acts inimical to the American military regime, but hundreds and hundreds have been fired from the civil administration because they cannot produce a clean anti-Hitler record or they have definite connections with the Nazi party or its activities.

What many people fail to realize in this connection is how thorough the Nazification of Germany has been. I had occasion to point out in previous columns that the German people were the Nazis' first conquest, that it took longer than the military conquest of any of the nations occupied by the German armies and that the preparation for this domestic campaign was long and thorough.

Recently we have had a chance to learn more about what a concentration camp really was. I refer not only to the grisly horrors revealed by the dead and the living-dead found in the captured camps. What is far more deeply revealing is the testimony of some of the former inmates who were released earlier with their brains still intact. From them we learn the powerful psychological influences of the treatment of prisoners by the gestapo.

This psychological effect reached those outside, too. Further, by repeating publicly the camp brutalities in a milder form and likewise by means of the tyrannical restrictions on the whole people, all Germany was turned into one great concentration camp. This was deliberately planned.

From my own personal experiences in Nazi Germany I can testify that this last statement is not an exaggeration. I have felt the "terror" atmosphere which the gestapo created even for a foreigner, reasonably sure of safe and unmolested departure from the accursed country. Leaving Germany in wartime, herded into the station under the piercing eyes of the SS troopers, with the invisible presence of the gestapo all about one, had a paralyzing effect on a person even though he had a passport in his pocket and the sovereign power of the United States behind him.

Jap Suicide Planes Cause Tremendous Damage



The U. S. Carrier Bunker Hill, hit twice by Japanese suicide planes within 30 seconds, shows the effectiveness of the newest campaign of Japs against our battle fleet. Nearly 400 men were reported killed or missing and 264 wounded on the USS Bunker Hill. Upper left, shows one of holes caused by bomb. Lower left, planes after fire swept the deck. Upper right, Capt. G. A. Seitz, right, and Comdr. Howell J. Dyson, of the Bunker Hill. Lower right shows photographs of the ship while fire was still raging.

United Nations Delegates Sign Charter



President Truman, center, shown speaking to the United Nations conference at their first meeting after the charter had been signed. Upper left, former Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius as he signed the official charter for the United States. He will represent the United States in the permanent organization. Upper right, V. K. Wellington Koo, minister of foreign affairs for China, was the first of the representatives of 50 nations at the conference to sign charter.

Model Airplane Fans Compete



The Prop Spinners held their sixth annual Northeastern championship event for gas-powered model airplanes at Hicksville, L. I., N. Y., and both the junior and senior class contestants were out in all their glory. Above is a general view during one of the events. A contestant launches his plane. Others prepare their craft for a record flight.

Benes Reviews Lidice Troops



Men of the new Czech army present arms as they are reviewed by President Eduard Benes of Czechoslovakia on the site of the town of Lidice which was leveled by the Germans in 1942 in retaliation for the slaying of Reinhard Heydrich, near Prague. The review followed a memorial service for the thousands of victims of Nazi fanaticism.

Tiger Hank Returns



After four years away from big league baseball diamonds, Hank Greenberg, twice selected as America's outstanding baseball player, returns to the Detroit Tigers of the American league.

Little, but Oh, My!



Quite cute are these three-day-old skunks when they arrive in New York and are admired by their new fan. Give them a few months and they will be given a wide berth.



WAR'S GREATEST SAGA

When the final history of the war is told, one of its greatest chapters will describe that branch of the service totally new to war—the Air Transport command. Transporting prime ministers and presidents, wounded men, jeeps and Pat Hurley's Cadillac over oceans and deserts has now become commonplace news to the American public. But behind that commonplace news is a thrilling story of painstaking, back-breaking pioneering.

Here are some things few people know about the Air Transport command:

Most used air route in the world is not between Washington and New York, not between New York and Chicago, but over "The Hump" between China and India. . . . Traffic over this world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, is so heavy that planes travel at different altitudes so there will be no collisions. One plane will have orders to fly at 23,000 feet, another at 23,000, and so on. Three or four different air routes are used across the Hump, also to avoid collisions.

Next most heavily used air route is across the North Atlantic. The ATC sends a plane across the Atlantic every 58 seconds. That's about as fast as traffic moves on the Pennsylvania railroad between New York and Philadelphia, busiest rail line in the world. . . . The ATC is now flying returning troops across the Atlantic at a rate of 50,000 per month. . . . For years, ATC pilots have been briefed on how to land on the difficult airports of Greenland, Iceland or China. Now the ATC has the tremendous thrill of briefing pilots on arriving at home ports—Boston, Portland, Long Island. . . . Pilots say that no briefing was ever more welcome.

From Battle Fronts.

More than 220,000 wounded men have been carried in ATC planes away from the battle front. During the early stages of Okinawa fighting, planes swooped down on makeshift runways, taxied up to ambulances, took off right under the noses of Jap guns. Stretchers were loaded aboard while the planes refueled. . . . One big ATC job has been getting crashed fliers out of the Himalayas. Amazing fact is that 75 per cent are saved. . . . Lt. Gen. Harold George, boss of the ATC, realized in advance that crashes would be heavy over the Hump, so men were given special training on how to live in the jungles. They were even taken to jungle outposts to get familiar with the jungle before they hopped. . . . Every plane flying the Hump has a small tin chest (with its own parachute) containing medicine, snake-bite, antidote, water purifier, concentrated food, signal flares, mirrors, mosquito nets, etc. This chest is kept near the plane's door. If the crew has to jump, the chest is kicked out before the last man leaves the plane. . . . In the jungle, crews are taught to stay where they are until sighted by rescue planes which signal instructions as to where they can be picked up. . . . Natives are usually friendly and the chances of getting rescued from the jungle are far better than if a flier drops over the desert or in the sea.

Japs Shot Down Many.

The Japs shot down many ATC planes early in the war by painting their DC-4s with U. S. insignia. . . . Flying up close, the Japs waited until they had perfect targets, then fired. . . . U. S. planes had to be repainted.

Before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt ordered special fighter planes rushed to the British in Egypt where Rommel had General Montgomery's back to the wall. . . . However, fighter planes couldn't make the long trek across Africa without refueling and there was no airport in the heart of the continent. . . . One day an American engineer was dropped off a plane almost in the center of Africa, in French territory not far from the Sudan. He had his pockets stuffed with money, and his head stuffed with ideas. That was about all. He also had instructions to build an airport. . . . Six weeks later the ATC came back and he had a 4,500-foot sodded runway in fairly good shape. He had drafted most of the natives in that part of Africa and paid them plenty to do the job. Fighter planes immediately began crossing to the Egyptian front and the British army staged its comeback. . . . Today the French are making diplomatic inquiries as to this airport, apparently with a view to taking it over.

Fifty Million Letters.

Fifty million letters were flown by the ATC to Europe in April. This peak load has now dropped off due to troop transfers out of Europe, but the ATC has been the largest mail carrier in history. . . . Also it runs the world's largest hotel chain. It must be prepared to handle 1,000 men a night at Natal, Brazil, also feed them. ATC hotels are scattered all over the world to handle ferrying and combat pilots. . . . When the weather is bad, hotel facilities overflow.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

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That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—the risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strains on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, fainting, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Don't psychoanalyze the returned G.I., says General Eisenhower, pat him on the back. And, he might have added, keep your hand out of his pocket while you're doing it.

The German wine crop is 50 per cent better than average this year. But the lees are bitter.

It's a paradox that for all of an army's destructiveness, 600,000 men now in the armed forces, according to Senator Murray, chairman of the small business committee, have had training or experience in construction work.

Surplus war property is estimated as equal in value to one-third of all the man-made property in this country less than 10 years ago, from the smallest pin to Boulder Dam.