

# Washington Digest

## Concentration Camps Turned Men Into Brutes

Prisoners Who Survived Cruelties Eventually Adopted Ways of Their Sadistic Guardians.

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(This is the second article on postwar Germany explaining how the Nazi "planned terror," methodically applied to the older Germans, has produced a state of mind among the anti-Nazi element which vastly complicates American rule of Germany.)

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In my preceding column I described the state of mind of the middle-aged German who had been anti-Nazi or at least had no connections with the Nazi party. A study of the gestapo methods has revealed that it was planned definitely to destroy initiative and individuality. This has greatly complicated the work of the American administration of occupied Germany.

As I said, the gestapo made use of a definite system of "planned terror."

It will, I realize, be somewhat difficult for a person living in a democratic country to grasp the extent to which such methods could be applied. First, we must realize that a totalitarian government is the absolute antithesis of a democracy. In a democracy the individual is the unit. The state exists for the individual. Under Nazi-Fascist totalitarianism, it is not enough to say that the individual exists for the state. The individual as a concept does not exist at all. "The Fascist conception of the state," said Mussolini, "is all-embracing; outside of it no human or spiritual values can exist. . . ."

It was the first task of the Nazis to destroy this concept of individuality. The terror was a part of the method employed.

### Purpose Was to Break Will to Resist

Bruno Bettelheim, author of "My Life in Nazi Concentration Camps," testifies to the purpose of the camps and the achievement of this purpose by the gestapo from his own experiences. He says that among the aims were these:

1. To break the prisoners as individuals and convert them into docile masses from which no individual or group act of resistance could arise.

2. To spread terror among the rest of the population by:

a. Using the prisoners as hostages;

b. Demonstrating to them what happened to those who opposed Nazi rulers.

3. To provide gestapo members with a training ground so they could:

a. Lose all human attitudes and emotions;

b. Learn the most effective ways of breaking civilian resistance.

4. To provide a laboratory in which the gestapo could study the effectiveness of torture, minimum nourishment and medical care, and normal activities plus hard labor.

The general purpose, of course, was to create a civilian population of maximum benefit to the Nazi state.

The author's study of prisoners, conducted under the camp regime, supplemented by a careful self-analysis, leads him to believe that the camp treatment resulted in either death or an adaptation to camp life. The prisoner finally accepted his position and even came to imitate the gestapo in manner and conduct.

This seems a logical progression when we know that the gestapo themselves in their training were submitted to tortures almost equal to those inflicted on the prisoners. One of the gestapo games, the author relates, was for two of them to stand up and beat each other. The one who stood the longest, won. Old prisoners who were thoroughly "changed" were said to indulge in the same sport among themselves.

### Many Were Killed, Or Were Suicides

Bettelheim describes the three stages through which the prisoners passed. The first is the arrest; the second is transportation to the camp, which is the hardest to bear, he says. The last is prison life; after a period of transition during which, unless the prisoner either resists physically and is murdered or resists introspectively and commits suicide, he is gradually "changed" until he reaches the "old prisoner" stage. Then his previous nature is eradicated, his individuality lost and his subjection complete.

The initial shock was devastating especially to a German, accustomed

as he was to processes logically controlled by law and order. To be deprived suddenly of one's civil rights with no recourse, came as a severe blow to the prisoner's mentality.

The transportation to the camp and the initiation into it frequently is the first experience of physical and psychological torture which the prisoner has ever experienced.

Corporal punishment, says Bettelheim, consisting of whipping, kicking, slapping, intermingled with shooting and wounding with the bayonet. Then there were tortures, the obvious goal of which was extreme exhaustion. "For instance," he says, "the prisoners were forced to stare for hours into glaring lights, to kneel for hours, and so on. From time to time a prisoner got killed; no prisoner was permitted to take care of his or another's wounds. The purpose of the tortures was to break the resistance of the prisoners, and to assure the guard that they were really superior to them."

Many were killed in this process. But those who lived, according to the author, were conditioned to the point where what followed—more beatings, more indignities, little food, exposure and brutally hard work—was not as bad as the initial experience.

For the rest, it was a slow but sure process of degeneration of body, mind and soul.

One thing which has surprised the Americans in occupied Germany is the tendency of the German people to deny that they knew the extent of the atrocities which were perpetrated in the camps or to appear to ignore their existence.

This is a result of a planned effect of the camp.

### Dread Fear Hung Over Everyone

According to statements concerning conditions in Germany as early as 1930, most of the Germans who had committed actual offenses against the Nazi regime, had already been imprisoned, murdered or had died in the camps. Then the Nazis found it necessary to go out and arrest members of various groups indiscriminately, say a few lawyers, a few doctors, a few from one organization or another. This was done as a threat against that whole particular group.

The effect on a group was somewhat the same, though in a lesser degree, as the effect on a family. The effect on the families of the prisoners, of course, was marked. At first a great deal of money was spent in attempting to get the prisoner released. The gestapo always replied that it was the prisoner's own fault that he was imprisoned. Then members of the family begin to find it hard to get jobs, children had trouble at school; poor relief was denied. Always the terror hung over them. The friends and relatives of a prisoner were considered suspects. So the influence of the camp reached out over the whole group.

As the Nazi regime became more harsh and especially latterly, when world resentment increased against it even before the war, many more Germans, passive before, became openly dissatisfied and critical. It was impossible to imprison them all without interfering with the functioning of the country's economy. Then "group" arrests increased. People in lots of a hundred or so from one profession, or trade, or affiliated body, would be jailed. Thus the effect of the "terror" was multiplied. This was the manner in which the entire population of the country was enchained.

General McClure recognizes how crushing has been the effect of "planned terror," but I doubt if the general public has any realization of its magnitude. "We shall often have to go far out of our way," says the general, "to help certain individuals who have not had an easy life these last 12 years and more, men whose broken spirits may well need our support and guidance to return to the ways of active personal democratic initiative."

It took centuries to develop human dignity, but it took only a few months in a Nazi concentration camp to destroy it.

## Wounded Sailors Will Swim Back to Health



Seaman 1/c Joe Panza of Saratoga, N. Y., upper left, hurries toward the water as he prepares to enjoy another day in sun and surf where once stood the exclusive Garden City Beach club, now used by wounded convalescents of the St. Albans Naval hospital as a beach resort. Center, food and refreshments being served some of the wounded by volunteer hostesses. Right, sun baths are a popular feature at this resort.

## New Members of President's Cabinet Sworn In



Rep. Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, upper left, who was sworn in as secretary of agriculture by Justice Wiley Rutledge. Before a gathering of over 2,000 in department of justice, Tom C. Clark of Texas took oath of office from Judge Thurman Arnold as attorney general. Lower right shows Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hannegan as he was sworn in as postmaster general. Upper right, Judge Lewis B. Schwelienback of Washington takes oath as secretary of labor from Judge Sherman Minton of Indiana.

## G.I. Meets General—His Father



Rarely, if ever, does a mere lieutenant greet a general of the army with "hello, pop." But Lt. Bruce Arnold did it that way when he met his dad, General of the Army H. H. Arnold, on Okinawa. The general is commanding general of the army air forces. His son is with the 834th AAA on Okinawa. Meeting took place during recent inspection trip.

## Yank Weds Russian Princess



The crowning ceremony of the Orthodox rites features the wedding of Princess Xenia Romanoff, daughter of Prince Andrew of Russia, and Lt. Calhoun Anerum of the U. S. army, in the Russian Orthodox church, St. Phillips, in Buckingham Palace road, London. They met while Lieutenant Anerum was stationed with U. S. troops in London.

## Woman Fire Warden



Carrying her day's supply of water in the tank on her back, Dorothy Martin, fire warden, clambers over the rough path to her home on top of the tower on top of Iron mountain. She lives alone, and she says she loves it—at present.

## New York Farm Boy



Instead of dodging a snorting automobile in the streets of his home city, New York, this school boy from the sidewalks of Gotham proves he enjoys running the tractor to aid war.



## NO MORE SISTER SUSIE'S SOCKS

Civilian consumers will benefit in the postwar period for a number of wartime discoveries by army chemists and researchers. Not only will they have synthetic soups and self-heating cocoa to use on camping trips, but they will find that they can purchase such things as shrink-proof woolen socks. The days when "the socks of sisters raised the blooming blisters have been banished forever in the army.

All army socks are now shrink-proofed, and efforts are being made to apply the same treatment to all types of wool cloth.

A new synthetic cloth has also been developed which can be rolled up into a ball and will rebound from a wall with the force of a rubber ball. If allowed to remain on a level surface for a quarter of an hour, however, the material will flatten out completely. The fiber wears extremely well, but the difficulty still to be worked out is that it will not stand more than 15 to 20 launderings.

## CAPITAL CHAFF

In view of the lumber shortage and the terrific wartime destruction of forests in the South and Northwest, a drive has started for a renewal of the Civilian Conservation Corps after the war. This may be the answer to conscription.

While old-fashioned brass hats talk about a big land army after the war, General Bayerlein, commander of the Panzer Lehr division, now a prisoner, has given some interesting information to U. S. officers abroad. He reports that if the U. S. army had stepped up tactical air warfare last August, after our breakthrough into France, we could have won the war sooner. At that time, U. S. planes were bombing German factories but not concentrating heavily on tactical bombing—in other words bombing of enemy troops. . . . Wonder what the effect would be if the new gop bomb, which spreads unquenchable fire in every direction, were dropped wholesale on Jap troops in action?

## U. S. and Franco's Radio

Top officials of OWI are seriously considering using the American taxpayers' money to buy time on Franco's Spanish radio network.

Up until recently, OWI was broadcasting over the Rabat, North African, station, which is French, in order to reach the Spanish people. According to OWI executive Thurman Barnard, "several programs a day carrying the American story are broadcast to the Spanish people."

But despite the recent action of the San Francisco conference in flatly vetoing the admission of Fascist Spain into the United Nations, OWI is considering a radio hookup over Franco's government-owned network.

## BOOST IN COFFEE PRICES?

A debate has been raging inside the government over the price of coffee, which this time may be boosted.

Chief problem is that Brazil, our biggest coffee shipper and our best friend in Latin America, is finding it so uneconomical to grow coffee that she is turning to cotton. In that case she would be our chief competitor instead of our chief customer.

Labor costs in Brazil have risen to such an extent that Brazilian coffee growers can't produce at the OPA ceiling price which averages around 13 cents a pound. They want the price boosted to an average of 18 cents a pound. This would increase the cost of a cup of coffee one-eighth of a cent.

The state department favors such a price rise. The OPA, anxious to hold the line, is opposed.

## MERRY-GO-ROUND

Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico has been sitting on the anti-poll tax bill until the San Francisco United Nations charter is out of the way. He does not want a poll-tax filibuster to upset ratification of the charter.

Fortright Fred Vinson, the war mobilizer, is going to be put on the spot soon by the Surplus War Property board. It is about to hatch a ruling whereby 11 billion dollars of government-owned war plants and machinery would be sold merely on the basis of price, not on the basis of where they could stimulate business and competition. . . . If the Surplus board has its way, war plants, machinery, etc., will go to the DuPonts, General Motors, Ford, and others with the most cash to buy them.

Unsung heroes of the airplane carrier Franklin's rescue were Capt. John Gingrich, skipper of the cruiser Pittsburgh, and his executive officer, Ed Rivers. Capt. Leslie Gehres of the Franklin expressed astonishment that the Pittsburgh kept its towline on the burning airplane carrier with Jap suicides hitting at both. . . . The answer is that for over 37 hours, Gingrich remained on the bridge, with Rivers assigned to the fantail to watch the towline. Neither had a moment's sleep during those 37 hours.

## Classified Department

Persons now engaged in essential industry will not apply without statement of availability from their local United States Employment Service.

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Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

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## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

There is pressure to break down the anti-fraternization rules in the American army of occupation in Germany. It is not coming from American girls.

Three million barrels of petroleum products were lost by recent strikes in this country, according to an estimate made by the Petroleum administration.

Life is gradually returning to normal in the Berlin suburbs, says a Moscow broadcast, and a bicycle race was held in one town on July 1. We hope it wasn't a master race.

Two thousand seven hundred Liberty ships have been battered beyond use in service. A lot of them put up a good scrap before they were scrapped.