

Washington, D. C.
AXIS MORALE IS CRACKING

Military reports that have leaked out of Germany in the past two or three weeks indicate quite definitely that Nazi morale is cracking. These reports, through channels which cannot be revealed, were quite definite even before Propaganda Minister Goebbels delivered his give-away speech warning that saboteurs on the home front would be beheaded.

Reports also are definite that the German army no longer has the reserves, no longer has the fighting backbone for a long war. Resentment against Hitler boils beneath the surface in the German army. German soldiers will keep on fighting, and are toughly trained, desperately hitting adversaries. But their heart isn't in it anymore.

All these factors, plus powerful wallops by the Allies, have created an atmosphere in which anything might happen. It is an atmosphere not unlike that which existed in the autumn of 1918. There are those in high places who think the war in Europe might be over anytime this winter, depending entirely on Nazi morale.

But in Asia the war is moving at a snail's pace. In Burma, though the rains are already over, nothing has happened. Many observers think that nothing will happen until late this winter, and that the real drive through Burma toward South China will be reserved for a year from now—the fall of 1944.

WILL ROGERS IN LONDON

Congressman Will Rogers of California, son of the cowboy humorist, came back from London singing the praises of American-British co-operation in England.

American troops, which he described as the new "Army of Occupation," live off the fat of the land and are treated royally by the British. There is nothing too good for them. Only trouble is they occasionally take a girl away from a British Tommy.

Will's father was a frequent visitor in London, and everyone remembered him. So it was like old home week for the young congressman from California.

BRITISH IDLE OIL

Maine's eagle-eyed Senator Brewster met Gen. B. B. Somervell, chief of the army's service forces on the Pacific island of Fiji, immediately tackled him on the dynamite-laden, all-important question of why the U.S.A. was supplying nearly 70 per cent of all Allied oil, though we have only 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

"Right around the Persian Gulf," reminded Senator Brewster, "the British have oil refineries and limitless quantities of oil. Why don't we get more oil out of the Near East instead of hauling it all the way from Texas?"

"We are rushing refining equipment to Arabia as quickly as we can," replied General Somervell.

"Yes," countered the senator from Maine, "but why use precious shipping space carting refining equipment half way around the world when the British already have a refinery at the Gulf of Persia. The manager of the Anglo-Persian oil company told us that his refinery could produce 60 per cent more oil. Why not put it to work instead of exhausting our own oil reserves?"

"Furthermore," Brewster continued, "the crude oil from Persian wells is so good that it can be pumped right into ships as bunker oil without refining. If we don't get busy and use it, we'll wake up after the war to find the United States with no oil left, and dependent on the British Empire."

CABOOSE SLEEPERS

Cornfed Senator Ed Johnson of Colorado got his start as a railroad telegrapher, still proudly carries a union card. So he was well qualified to preside over the War Mobilization committee when A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, testified on manpower and other railroad problems.

Whitney objected to the policy of some railroads in refusing to let train crews sleep in idle cabooses. Trainmen away from home frequently can't get hotel accommodations, but railroad officials argue that it is unsanitary and also dangerous for them to sleep in "cabs," which sometimes have to be switched.

"When I was a working trainman, we always lived in our cabooses," Whitney said, "not because rooms were not available at hotels, but because it was more convenient."

"Many's the time I have slept in cabooses myself," reminisced Johnson.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

American doughboys in Iran have found a good way to dodge U. S. military police and get out of camp at night. They take advantage of the Mohammedan custom of veiling their women, and slip on a full-length, cover-all veil which Iranian women wear from head to toe. Military police have been instructed to protect Iranian women and prevent all flirting, so they don't dare stop a veiled figure to ask her (or him) to lower the veil, and see whether an American doughboy is behind it.

Italian Scenes Preceding New War Declaration



Thirty-five days after surrendering to the Allies, Italy declared war on her former Axis partner, Germany. Marshal Pietro Badoglio announced the declaration and said that German ferocity had "surpassed every limit of human imagination" at Naples. In picture above, British anti-aircraft units are shown covering the arrival of troops near the Chiunzi pass, gateway to that city. Inset: After the fall of Naples, Italians mobbed a car carrying three fascist generals who had been in charge of defenses there. The generals had co-operated with the Germans and required Allied protection from the angry Italian masses.

Yankees in Germany Fare Better Than Civilians



A visiting delegate of the War Prisoners Aid of the YMCA made these photographs of captured American soldiers at a German prison camp southeast of Berlin. The prison camp fare plus weekly 1½ pound food packages from the American Red Cross give the interned Yankees a better diet than that of German civilians. Top left: Prisoners receive Red Cross food parcels. Bottom left: American prisoners lined up before the mess hall. Some wear British uniforms because theirs were worn out or destroyed in battle. Right: Henry Soderberg, Swedish YMCA representative, talks with a leader of American prisoners.

Polio Victim and His Family



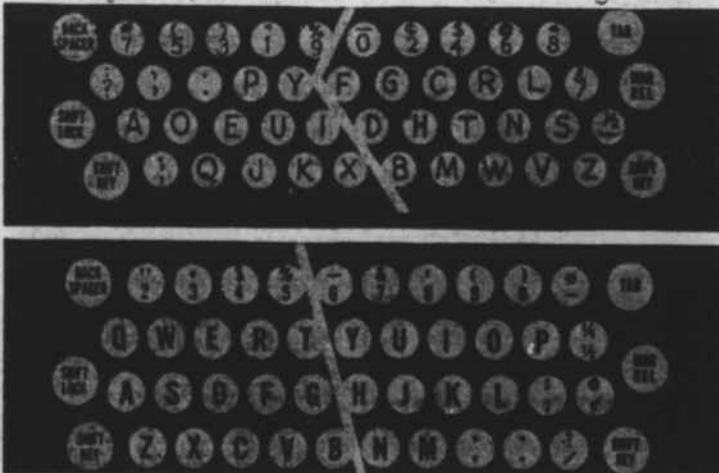
Fred B. Salte, who has spent the last seven years of his life in an iron lung fighting infantile paralysis, is shown with his wife and two children as they left Chicago, Ill., bound for Florida.

Indian WAVE



Seaman Second Class Carolyn White Bear, first full-blooded Indian to be graduated from the U. S. naval training school in New York, shows her identification card to a shore patrolman.

Old and New Typewriter Keyboards



Top: New typewriter keyboard designed by Lieut. Comdr. August Dvorak compared with the old keyboard at bottom. The new arrangement gives the right hand more work and is designed to increase speed. White lines separate the work done by each hand on the old and new keyboards.

Jail or Deportation?



Stanley Mocarsky of Hartford, Conn., who was given the alternative of a jail sentence or leaving the U. S. forever when he told a federal judge that he refused to fight for this country.



Destruction of Hamburg

By Walter Taub

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly)

Four hundred refugees from Hamburg are now in Sweden, eyewitnesses of the greatest havoc that ever smote any human settlement. The first attack on Hamburg was delivered on the night of July 24. The attack was concentrated against anti-aircraft batteries, with excellent results. Most of the batteries were silenced in a few minutes.

Then, say these eyewitnesses, came an absolute novelty in the history of bombing—bearing witness to the scientific care devoted to planning the attack. Special reconnaissance planes appeared over the city, picking out certain industrially important sections with green flares dropped by parachutes.

These flares hovered like bunches of grapes in the air and aided the bombers coming in afterward to drop their explosives in a square around the section thus marked, so that buildings for whole blocks collapsed and all roads and communications between that section and the remainder of the city were choked off.

This was not done to prevent the inhabitants from getting out, but to hinder the transfer of firemen and fire-fighting apparatus from other sections in the effort to save war-important buildings and their contents.

When communications were thus closed, there began a rain of incendiaries that spread fires over such a large area that practically the whole section was drowned in flames. The work of air defense on this and the following nights was enormously hampered by this simple but effective means which, as far as I know, was applied here for the first time.

'Dazzling Paper' Dropped.

Mrs. Anna Johansson, a refugee in Malmoe, refers also to "sheets of paper, black on one side and dazzling silver on the other, dropped by thousands from the bombers." Twenty-five other Hamburg Swedes attest to the correctness of her statement. Air-defense searchlight beams were reflected all ways from these sheets, thus being prevented from reaching the raiding aircraft with full intensity and making the job of locating them much more difficult.

The first assault was directed at the inner town. The free port, covering an area of more than 3,500 acres, naturally was not spared during this 90-minute attack, but not until the next raid on Sunday, a day raid, was the most devastating blow directed at this pride of Hamburg.

That Sunday, Hamburg displayed an unusual appearance. Even in the forenoon, giant clouds of smoke and dust enveloped the whole town, darkening the sky.

Then the sirens screamed, and a big formation of American bombers reduced to ashes the continent's biggest shipyards.

These were the plants of Blohm and Voss, Vulkanwerft and Howaldtswerft—where the biggest steamers are built, repaired and docked.

Monday night, during the fresh British attack, the big gas plant in the harbor section received a direct hit. That terrible explosion deprived the city of gas.

RAF Keeps Promise.

That evening, none among Hamburg's 1,700,000 inhabitants was willing to retire to bed, for the RAF had dropped leaflets promising a repetition of Sunday's raid on Tuesday. Hamburgers, from whom Hitler was once compelled to admit he had received the most "no" votes, always listen to the British radio and they know, therefore, that "the British keep their promises."

On Tuesday morning at 11:30, the few remaining sirens screamed. The attack began at 12:30. The raid lasted only half an hour, but it sufficed to convert Hamburg into a veritable sea of fire. With the central mains destroyed, hundreds of thousands of those leaving the shelters would have given a fortune for a glass of water. The heat was unbearable, in a wind storm like a typhoon. The giant bonfire resulted in a rapid consumption of oxygen. Terrible fire storms resulted in areas where a few minutes earlier complete calm had prevailed.

Wednesday morning, the city like a mass of fire lay in ruins and ashes. Sections housing 300,000 people were razed to the ground.

The main railroad station, Saint Georg, was a terrible sight on Wednesday, with charred railroad cars on sidings and unrecognizably smashed automobiles.

A Swedish girl saw people blazing from phosphorus cast themselves into water—but the phosphorus burned there equally well. Lime was strewn on the corpses scattered about the streets, and the odor of death lay heavy over the whole town.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—New word that the Germans are systematically exterminating war prisoners either by outright murder or by inhuman

Nazi Treatment of War Prisoners Is Murder, He Says

forced labor, comes from Nikolai Burdenko, chief surgeon of the Red army who has been loaded with honors for his services to science. He is a Hero of Socialist Labor (recipients of this title receive simultaneously the Order of Lenin and the Hammer and Sickle); member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR; and winner of the Stalin prize.

When the later honor was conferred Burdenko said that it was a tribute to the whole of Russian science. He boasted then that 70 per cent of all wounded Red army men had been returned to front line action during the early phase of the war. Now—a-days this figure is surpassed.

Grandson of a serf, son of a clerk, Burdenko worked at various jobs to educate himself. During the Russo-Japanese war he volunteered in a medical unit. Afterwards he completed his studies at Yuriev Derpt university, and during World War I served as a surgeon in front line hospitals. In 1938 he organized the famous hospital for treatment of neuro-pathological cases.

Sixty-five years old now, Academician Burdenko is still indefatigable. He says that mortality in German prison camps is 20 to 30 per cent, and believes that German treatment of their prisoners should be adjudged ordinary murder.

WHEN peace comes, the watchdog of the national purse, the comptroller general, looks for claims galore growing out of cancelled war contracts

Comp.-Gen. Warren Popular in Capital Despite Pie Deal

total as much as 50 billion dollars. He looks also for leaks, startling even in these days of astronomical costs, and is asking congress for the final say on all such items.

Claimants, however, hardly need worry, for Lindsay Carter Warren was once called "the fairest minded man in the house of representatives." The speaker was a Republican, and Warren is a Democrat, which makes it all the better.

He resigned from the house in '41 to become comptroller after serving from 1925. Solidly built, easy speaking, he is popular on Capitol Hill. At one time he ran the house restaurant and brought it triumphantly out of the red by charging 15 cents for pie.

Between Washington, D. C., and Washington, N. C., where he was born in 1889, lie years of steady climbing. Graduating in law from the University of North Carolina, he practiced for a time; became county attorney of Beaufort county, went on to the state senate and thence to the country's capital.

Married since 1916, with three children, he is a great family man. Nevertheless, there are rumors of at least one poker game. He is said in one week-end session to have trimmed FDR himself.

FRANK M. SWACKER is probably the only lawyer between Maine and Miami who can talk deep-sea diving with the lead-shod professionals. He once worked on the Spanish fleet that sank.

That was after a bout with yellow fever in New Orleans had made him eligible for the Second U. S. Volunteer Infantry, Hood's Immunes, in the Spanish-American war. But it was before he swung a sledge on sprouting railroads in South and Central America.

Mr. Swacker wasn't admitted to practice until he was 35. But he was no sooner in than he was a special assistant to the U. S. attorney general and up to his waist in the New Haven anti-trust proceeding of 1914-17. The railroads, employers and hands recently received the Swacker dissenting report on the claims of some 600,000 operating employees for a wage boost. The majority of the emergency board of three recommended a 4 per cent rise. The Swacker recommendation advocated 7½ per cent.

The law problems of railroads have kept Lawyer Swacker pretty busy throughout the years, and railroad labor problems have been his avocation—the word is his own—the nearest thing to a hobby that he will admit indulging in. He attends to them, and his law practice, at a not too tidy desk in a Manhattan office, double walled with his law library. He is not so attentive that he misses vagrant amusing items, a quirky "e" in a typewritten letter, maybe. He first saw the light of day in St. Louis, Mo., 64 years ago.



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Hot Box, Flat Car, Morgue Are Battlefront Exchanges

The WACs are gradually taking over the telephone switchboards in North Africa, thus releasing the men operators for service in the fields of battle. These girls are doing a vital job, operating some of the most important war equipment in the world. And according to the various generals, their efficiency is unsurpassed.

The wartime phone systems have exchanges also. But G. I.'s don't give them sedate names such as "State" or "Plaza." When they put a call through to the battle front, they ask for: Grizzly Bear, Gypsy Lee, Morphine, Hot Box, Flatcar, Morgue, Girdle, Hellzapoppin.

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