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ARMY TALKS



What We'll Find in Europe



Restricted

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EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES ARMY

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ARMY TALKS :—The PURPOSE of ARMY TALKS is to help American officers and enlisted personnel become better-informed men and women and therefore better soldiers.

ARMY TALKS are designed to stimulate discussion and thought, and, by their very nature, thus may often be controversial in content. They are not to promote or to propagandize any particular causes, beliefs or theories. Rather, they draw upon all suitable sources for fact and comment, in the American tradition, with each individual retaining his American right and heritage so far as his own opinion is concerned.

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ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

WHAT WE'LL FIND IN EUROPE

FOR almost four years German troops have been in control of most continental Europe. Nothing like this has happened in the world before. To more than 110 million people, the German Army has represented rigid authority in all its forms—an authority from which there was no appeal.

None of the military occupations of history has ever been so complete, has ever gone as deep into the roots of the people of conquered countries as has that of Hitler.

Europe a Test Tube

The nations he has beaten, the lands he now controls, are like a biologist's test tube in which a strange, new culture has been breeding. The laboratory technician is about to empty the contents of that test tube onto the slide of his microscope. He is about to examine it minutely, part by part, trying to find out what has been going on.

The Allied Armies of the United Nations, when they force their way across the Channel, the Mediterranean or the North Sea, will be the men who empty that test tube.

Each of the now - occupied countries will present a picture, different in de-

tails but similar in its broad features, when the troops of the United Nations enter.

There will be a background of facts, almost identical in each of the countries, which should be understood by every officer and man.

Three Groups Waiting

Back of the mined beaches, behind the concrete and the barbed wire, the populations of the occupied countries are waiting their liberation from the Germans. In each of the countries there are three groups: the quislings or collaborationists, the men who say—and may believe—that the welfare of their countries depends on co-operating with Hitler; the “underground” fighters, who have harried the Germans by day and night, bombing cafes and barracks, blowing up bridges, carrying out industrial sabotage; there is, finally, the bulk of the population, neither fighting against the occupation nor working for the Nazis.

The quislings and the collaborationists, the saboteurs and the patriots have captured the imagination and the newspaper headlines in the United Nations. Little has been written or said about the great mass of the

This issue of Army Talks, prepared by Army Talks Section, Special Service Division, Headquarters, SOS, is largely based on a booklet written by Major Lionel Birch, R.A., and published by the British Army Bureau of Current Affairs. In doing the research, Major Birch had access to official reports on file in London, news releases, the recorded texts of German broadcasts and the stories brought out of occupied Europe by trusted nationals of the occupied countries.

people, in each of these countries, who are neither one nor the other.

Yet these are the people with whom the Allied Armies will have their first contacts after they force their way ashore. They are the people who will be of the very greatest aid to us when invasion day comes. They are the people who, if they should turn against us, could make the task before us infinitely longer, more difficult and more dangerous.

The Triangle of War

It may be easy to think of the occupied countries as a kind of a triangle.

One side represents the people themselves, their history and their customs. The second side represents the facts of the German occupation, how it was carried out and how it has been administered.

The third side, our side, is yet to be drawn. Who will draw it? You will—you men now training in the ETO.

Yours is the responsibility of making the invasion, when it comes, a liberation—not just another occupation.

The invasion may come at any one of dozens of points along the extended frontiers of Hitler's "Fortress Europe."

But wherever the individual soldier finds himself, whether it is in a French or a Norwegian or a Greek town, he will, sooner or later, land in a village somewhere, to settle down for a night or many nights.



THE TRAGIC TRIANGLE

And at that very instant—the moment the first sergeant gives the command to "Fall out," and the men turn toward the buildings to look for a place to unroll their packs and spread their blankets—they'll come face to face with the beginning of the line which will close the world's most tragic triangle.

The People of Europe

This is what has been happening in Europe.

Probably one of the best roundup stories of how Hitler began his campaign for world domination and how he carried it out with considerable success before the United Nations realized what they were up against, is a paper-covered pamphlet called "Why Britain is at War." The title might just as well have been "Why the United Nations are at War."

George Smith's Way

It was written by an English writer and member of Parliament named Harold Nicolson and it sold for six pence.

In his book, Nicolson likens Hitler's technique to that of a man named George Joseph Smith who was convicted on Thursday, July 1, 1915, of the murder of Beatrice Mundy. He was sentenced to be hanged and was executed on the morning of August 14—almost exactly six weeks after the verdict was brought in.

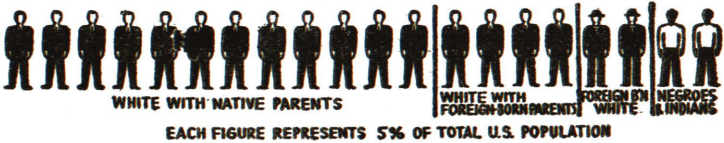
The interesting parallel between George Smith and Hitler is that Smith, using identical technique in each case, had married three different women, induced them to make over their property to him, and then murdered them.

In each case he expressed worry over his wife's health.

He told both his intended victim, her family and her friends that he was taking her to the seaside for her health.

RACIAL CROSS-SECTION OF AMERICA

HOW WE STOOD IN 1930



BREAKDOWN OF IMMIGRANTS SINCE 1830

EACH HEAD REPRESENTS 500,000 ARRIVALS



He arranged to have her visit a doctor, explaining that he was concerned about her.

Then, back at their lodgings, he persuaded her to take a bath.

In each case the drowned body was discovered later.

A "Natural" Death

In each case a hurried physician, in whose mind the idea that the woman was ill had already been planted, issued a death certificate to the effect that the woman died from natural causes.

Hitler's technique was much the same.

He picked his victims, he wooed them, he assured both his victim and her friends that his intentions were strictly honorable; he "married" (made a treaty with) the intended victim, he built up the theory of her "ill-health" (by playing up the plight of his minority group of German blood-brothers in the country) and then, just as George Smith did with his brides, he murdered his victim, usurped her property and started looking for another "wife."

The Same Pattern

Viewed in the light of the parallel with George Smith's murders, Hitler's steps in spreading his "New Order" become painfully clear. Austria, Czechoslovakia and Danzig followed the pattern of Smith's money murders.

Nicolson recognized the parallel—and based his book upon it. It may well be kept in mind by American officers and men as they examine the history of this war to date in an effort to understand what they will find on the continent of Europe.

There was, of course, one thing that Hitler had which George Smith did not have—the group inside the victim-country which worked for him. None of Smith's brides had a little brother

who helped Smith hold their heads under water. But Hitler had exactly that kind of help in almost every country he invaded.

It came from the collaborationists—from the men who said, in French, or Norwegian, or Czech, something to the effect that:

"Well, you can say this much for Hitler, he certainly cleaned up Germany. If it wasn't for him the Bolsheviks would . . ." etc.

No Smith "Underground"

Furthermore, there was no parallel for the patriotic groups in the occupied countries, the "underground" members, who print and circulate illegal newspapers, who carry out sabotage on a large scale.

And there was, of course, no parallel for the millions of ordinary citizens of the occupied countries, people just like the people at home, who have been starved, terrorized and regimented by the Storm Troopers and the Gestapo, the men who do Hitler's dirty work for him.

Second Phase Followed

When the first phase of Hitler's program, with respect to any one of the occupied countries, had been carried out, the second went immediately into effect. In Austria and Czechoslovakia there was no fighting. In Poland, in France and in the low countries there was a period of warfare. The blitzkrieg smashed down the defenses and the German Army marched in.

At first the troops of occupation were scrupulously correct. Blond young officers bowed stiffly from the waist, the heel-clicking and the saluting came straight out of the book. Receipts were given for everything the Army took.

Then, slowly, the pressure began to build up. "Requisitions" stripped the farms of their cattle, the shops of

their goods, the arsenals of the military supplies. Curfews and rationing appeared. The correct, blond young officers disappeared and the Storm Troopers replaced them. Anti-Semitic laws were introduced. "Collaborationist" officials replaced those who had been freely chosen by the people.

Free Press Killed

Churches were closed and the pastor or priest imprisoned.

News sources had long since been choked off. Only newspapers which served as outlets for the propaganda "stories" from Berlin were allowed. Listening to foreign broadcasts was an act punished by the firing squad or the hangman's noose.

The attitude of the troops of occupation became more and more overbearing and brutal. Finally there would be an "incident," either engineered by the Germans themselves or originating naturally on the part of some hot-headed resident of the occupied country who had had just about all he was willing to take.

Germans Hit Back

A pistol fired down a dark street, a hand-grenade tossed into the window of a cafe full of German officers, those were the classic types of "incidents." The German reaction was swift, bloody and ruthlessly carried out. Hostages were rounded up. The man sought was given a short period in which to surrender. If he failed to do so, the execution squads went into action.

These are facts—not propaganda dreams. They have been reported to the Allied Governments in London by trusted agents who risked their lives to remain behind the lines when the enemy marched in.

What clinches these accounts is, of course, the fact that the Germans themselves announce the killings—boast of how they do their terror job.

The Germans themselves said they killed Alliard, Mauger, Brouste and Cormier—and 16 others—during August, 1942, in the French cathedral town of Chartres. They have themselves told the story of Lidice, in Czechoslovakia, where every single male was killed, the women shipped off to Germany and the town blown into heaps of brick, stone and rubble.

The Nazis Admit It

The Germans themselves have told how they executed 17 schoolboys in Bordeaux, France, how they killed 93 hostages in Paris, in August, 1942, and another 50 at Nanterre, France, in the same month.

Those are a few examples, picked at random from the files in London. They are valuable because they prove what might be laughed off as "atrocious stories—just some more propaganda."

Of course they are propaganda, propaganda of the most damaging sort to the Germans—true propaganda. They are the kind of propaganda which states a fact from which any reasonable man can draw only one conclusion.

This is the kind of thing the people who will watch you as you fall out in some village square, in some farmyard, have been living with for nearly four years.

Dozens Such Stories

There are dozens of such stories, perhaps hundreds. Not all of them are backed up with concrete and incontrovertible evidence. Any one may—it is just possible—turn out to be completely untrue. But enough of them have been nailed down, chapter and verse, to make it perfectly clear to any man that the German occupation, like the Nazi method of making war, is one of terror, brutality and death.

The German firing squad has been one, but only one, of the methods used



NAZIS ARREST OSLO STUDENTS

Germans Arrest Danish Patriot

Nation-wide Hunt for Saboteurs; Over 100 Already Held

ROTTERDAM

ESCAPED BELGIAN DESCRIBES GESTAPO HELL

NAZIS LOSING OCCUPIED
WITH

Nazi Terror Fails to Blot Out A Free Press in Beaten France

ALGIERS, Sept. 13—Practically every family in France is reading clandestine newspapers while another

LYON

BORDEAUX

Hunger, Nazis Together Swell Misery in Italy

Disorder, hunger, and misery hand in hand throughout Italy as the Germans stamped with heat upon their beaten allies in a

"the truth will out!"

rest riots
On for 500

Thousands Slain by Germans Buried in Mass Graves at Orel
By Maurice Handler
United Press War Correspondent
OREL, Aug. 22—I have just come away from the most terrible sight
from town more excavations are going on. New burial grounds are being found daily.

G GRIP ON EUROPE

WARSAW

LIDICE

KIEV

Germans Slaughter Yugoslavs, Begin Balkan Reign of Terror

strode at night by boots liberate

UNREST IN THE BALKANS

Germans Shoot Greek Leaders Of Crete. Ri Disorders

to sell the conquered people on the beauties of Hitlerism.

It will probably be unlikely that any member of the family into whose barns and house you will go to sleep for your first night on the Continent has been executed as a hostage. But it will be an almost fifty-fifty chance that at least one member of that family is among Europe's toll of the missing.

Volunteers for Germany!

He may still be a war prisoner in Germany, he may be one of the forced workers in the slave-pens of the Nazi war industries. He may be in hiding in the mountains, living precariously one jump ahead of the searching parties in German uniform.

Those labor conscripts didn't go willingly. Many were hauled to railroad stations wearing handcuffs. At one French town the men shook their manacled wrists at a crowd which had gathered and shouted:

"Here are volunteers for work in Germany."

Running Fight in Warsaw

But the deportations went on. More than 400,000 Dutch workers have been deported to Germany, more than 400,000 Belgians. They have been sent from France, from Norway, even from the "model protectorate" of Denmark. In Poland the Nazis embarked upon a program of mass extermination of Jews. For days there was a running fight in the ghetto of Warsaw. Machine-guns, even field artillery were used. At the end bombing planes and tanks were called in to finish the job. There have been estimates of the number of people killed. They run into the thousands. The real figure may never be known.

In Greece the method was a little different. Here the Nazis just simply allowed the civilian population to starve to death. In Athens, last year,

200 people died every day. In peacetime, the death rate for the city was 27 per day.

Only Germans Eat

Nobody in Europe, aside from the German Army, has had enough to eat. Nobody in Europe will have enough to eat until we take it to them. The bluntest declaration on the food policy of the Germans came from Hermann Goering, head of the German Luftwaffe and one of Hitler's closest advisors. Said he:

"Whoever is going to starve in Europe, it is not going to be the Germans."

That was the announced policy, that is the policy the Nazis have carried out and are carrying out for more than 110 million people.

Two Kinds of Effect

In Norway, for instance, it has been carried out in a manner which may best be illustrated by this comparison between civilian ration allowances and the rations of the German troops of occupation:

Meat: civilians, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per week; Germans, 6 lbs. per week. Bread: civilians, 4 lbs. per week; Germans, 10 lbs. per week. Potatoes: civilians, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per week; Germans, 10 lbs. per week. Eggs: civilians, none; Germans, 5 per week. Green vegetables: civilians, sometimes available; Germans, 7 lbs. per week.

This German food policy has had some strange effects. They are of two kinds.

In November, 1941, the editor of the Turkish newspaper Vatan visited Athens. This was almost a year before the worst famine there. In a report on his trip, this reporter said he was horrified to see "men like skeletons" coming toward him along the street.

That's the spectacular side of the

German food policy. There is another. In Paris, for instance, an examination of school children between the ages of 14 and 15 showed that only one in five had developed normally. The infant mortality rate in France before the war was less than three in a hundred, one of the lowest of any civilized country.

A Whole Generation

Now it is more than eight in a hundred. Tuberculosis flourishes in all its forms. A whole generation of French men and women has been affected. Napoleon's wars are said to have taken an inch off the height of the French nation—by killing off all the tall Frenchmen. The Nazi occupation may well prove to have been even worse for the French race.

This experience, this second side of the triangle, is what makes the people of Europe different from the people in Maine and Minnesota, in Kansas, Florida or Texas. Except for the fact of the German occupation they are very much like the folks you left at home. As a matter of fact, many American soldiers have relatives in the very countries which have been under Hitler's heel.

You Might Meet Them

A man whose father came to the United States from Norway or Belgium, from Greece or France, probably has an uncle or an aunt—perhaps a grandmother or grandfather—living there today.

You have seen what they have been up against, what they have been going through, and are still going through, today.

Now, this gives the American Army an advantage enjoyed by none of the other United Nations forces. Practically every company has its "Tony," or its "Frenchie" or its "Nick the Greek."

Each of these men has heard stories about "the old country" from his father and his mother. He may even have visited the lands from which his parents set out to find a new home in the United States. To him the people in the occupied countries are not "foreigners," they are people just like his father and mother. If he thinks about it at all, he will realize they are people just like him, except for a few minor differences.

They're Not Foreigners

But all of us, in the United States, whether our names are of English, Latin, Slavic or Scandinavian derivation, have relatives somewhere in Europe. We may not know them, we may not even know their names or where they live, but if our ancestors came from Europe we are, basically, the same kind of people as those who live there now.

For a hundred years the United States has been absorbing the people of Europe. In 1930, the last year for which such figures are available, 60 per cent. of the American population was white, of native-born parents, 20 per cent. was white, of foreign-born parents, and 10 per cent. of the population was foreign-born and white. Another 10 per cent. was made up of Negroes and American Indians. A small percentage of Asiatics existed but was not shown in the figures as compiled.

Where We Come From

National origins of Americans during the period from 1830 to 1930 may be shown in this manner:

Out of every 50 immigrants reaching American shores during that 100-year period, nine were Irish, eight were English or Scotch, seven and one half were German, seven and one half were Russian or Polish, seven were Italian, six were Canadian and five were Scandinavian.

Don't worry about that half German, half Russian-Polish immigrant, he's a statistical immigrant representing a percentage of an actual unit of 500,000 arrivals.

What is true of our country is true of our Army and that makes it easier for us, than for the troops of any other of the United Nations, to understand what we are up against in meeting the people of Europe.

Another Sicily ?

It makes it very simple for us to see why some of the people in the countries to which we are going will welcome us joyfully—as the civilians did in Sicily and Italy.

And it will enable us to understand why some of them may not want to have anything to do with us. Any man can cast about in his mind, thinking about the people he knew at home, and find some who, if they had been through all this, would be so thoroughly sick of war and soldiers that they would slam the door on any man in uniform, no matter why he was there.

No Surprises

Thought of that way, it will not surprise American troops if some Frenchmen, or Norwegians or Greeks, as the case may be, seem cool toward the units which arrive to replace the Germans. There may even be active opposition—from the "collaborationists" who have dared the wrath of their own people to help the Nazis during the past three or four years.

Whatever reception you run into, remember, what would you, and your family and your friends—even the people you didn't like much at home—do under the same circumstances? How would they feel, what would they say, how would they act?

Probably the easiest way to bring the brutal facts of the German occupation of Europe home to the average American

would be to retell the story of that occupation in terms of American States, of American cities and of American towns.

Like Connecticut

Czechoslovakia, one of the first of Hitler's victims, may well serve as an example. No attempt is going to be made to seek accurate parallels in so far as miles are concerned, but in a broad sense Czechoslovakia can be compared with one of the highly industrialized New England States—perhaps Connecticut.

It was a happy and prosperous country, ruled by a democratic form of Government which, by and large, carried out the will of the majority of the people. It was largely industrial, as is Connecticut, but it too had an agricultural population.

The Meeting is Called

And now, using the illustration of Connecticut, let us trace the story of what happened. Almost exactly the same thing happened in the rest of Europe.

It was the autumn of 1938. The hard-woods on the ridges along the Connecticut Valley were turning red and brown. Boys hunted squirrels in those ridges, or pheasants in the fields which were coloring with the first touches of September weather.

In Torrington, one Saturday night, a meeting was called by a man who had announced that he was the leader of all the people in Torrington who had come there from, for example, New York. There weren't many, but this was a kind of New York get-together, so practically all the New Yorkers in Torrington turned out.

The hall had been cleverly decorated. There was a huge picture of some New Yorker on the platform. There was a uniformed band. There was plenty of free beer—and plenty of application

blanks for membership in the "Exiled New Yorkers' Association."

The band played, the beer flowed and then the "leader" got up to speak.

To its surprise the good-natured audience discovered that it had been the victim of an outrageous plot. They were New Yorkers, weren't they? their "leader" shouted at them. But they worked for Connecticut Bosses, didn't they? They paid taxes to Connecticut. Their children were forced to go to Connecticut schools!

It Was Old Stuff

Now, all this was old stuff to the audience—they had come to Torrington for those very reasons, because there were jobs in the factories and machine shops, because the schools were pretty good and because they wanted to live there. It had never struck them as a hardship before.

But there were those who owed bills they hoped they would not have to pay, there were some who had just lost their jobs and were pretty sore about things in general. They nodded their heads sagely.

"He's got something there," they decided.

One of a Series

Now, this meeting in Torrington was only one of a series of meetings being held in all other Connecticut towns where little groups of New Yorkers had settled. There were bigger meetings—State meetings, at which the pictures on the platform were bigger, the bands larger and the beer more plentiful.

Newspapers "covered" these meetings—and sent their stories back to New York. There they were played up.

This corresponded to our old friend George Joseph Smith and his build-up before one of his bath-tub murders. But in the capitol, at Hartford, and in Albany, a "situation" was developing.

The meetings became disorderly. There were fights, followed by arrests. The New York papers thundered that their "blood-brothers" were being persecuted. Redress was demanded. Finally, one day, New York troops appeared "to restore order." They did it by installing the "leader" of the "Exiled New Yorkers' Association" in the Governor's office and announcing that Connecticut had been incorporated into "Greater New York State."

Fantastic? Silly? Impossible?

But It Really Happened

It was so fantastic and silly and impossible that because it happened in Czechoslovakia—because the rest of the world simply refused to believe the evidence of their own eyes and ears—thousands of Americans are three thousand miles or more away from home now and probably will go further away before they get back to their own homes and their own jobs.

Let's go on with the illustration—swinging it a little closer to what happened in France.

The occupying troops spread over first a part, and then the whole, of the State of Connecticut. They demanded that the entire cost of their occupation be paid by the State.

They Take Hostages

They locked up the Mayors and half a dozen prominent citizens of each city in the State as hostages for the payment of the sums they demanded. If the ransom was paid, the men were released until the next time.

Requisition squads swept the shelves bare of goods in the stores, hunted out cattle, machinery, even blankets and table linen from Connecticut homes.

There is no need to go on—the pattern is well-known.

Equally easy to understand was the reaction of the people. Men with guts took their shotguns and went out to

do something about it. They got themselves killed.

Others tried to play ball with the invaders—but that's a game in which you can't win—no matter how good you are. You can't win because the game is rigged from the beginning. You lose just the same, only it's easier for the winner than making you lose the hard way—in a street fight or at the execution wall.

They Did Their Best

Most of the residents of the State didn't do either. They just tried, as people always try, to get along the best way they could, keeping out of trouble, working and eating when they were able.

But what happened was what happened in France and Greece.

The only work was work in the invader's war plants, the only food was his ration dole. In Athens they starved. In France they fell ill. Everywhere they waited. Everywhere they are waiting now. The brave men die, the traitors live, uneasily but fairly well. The people wait for the day of liberation, the day we help close the triangle.

These are the things to remember on invasion day.

These are the things that form the second side of the triangle. The people of those occupied countries have been through three to four years of real hell—a kind of hell which no American of this generation knows anything about.

It may be that the old rules of military occupation will be entirely inadequate to meet the situation.

We will go to countries which have been systematically looted of every natural and man-made resource, peopled by civilians who have been beaten, starved and terrorized, people without leaders of their own, and where

one family in every two has lost a member.

Men who think of this in terms of their own homes, who can imagine just how they and their families and friends would feel if they had been through what every French family, every Polish, or Greek, or Danish, or Norwegian, or Belgian family has been through, will understand what they see.

Understanding what they see, they will better understand the enemy they will still have to beat. They should remember that, when they fall out in some French barnyard or in the streets of a Greek town. These people like skeletons, these sick children, these ragged old men are people like themselves.

Some Will Be Hopeless

Many will have sunk into almost hopeless despair long before the first Jeep skids through their village. But many more have kept the spark of hope alive, listening to the motors of the R.A.F. bombers passing over their heads by night and the Flying Fortresses by day.

Hiding in their cellars, while the Gestapo men tramped by only a few yards away, they have listened to the British broadcasts, or read the mimeographed pages of their underground newspapers. Hitler has tried—and failed—to wipe out whole peoples. It remains to be seen whether he has left an indelible mark on the minds and bodies of all his victims.

When the final crackup comes, when the German armies crumble into flight, and the starved, scarred civilians creep out of their hiding places, not all the casualties will be inflicted on the Germans by the troops of the United Nations.

Will that surprise anyone?

Preparation

WHAT will we find in Europe when we set foot on the Continent? What will be the attitude of those who have survived the past four years? What must be our attitude when we meet them?

Already, from reports and pictures, we have a more than passing acquaintance with the grim reality of death and cruelty and disease which has stalked into France and the Lowlands hand in hand with the German armies of occupation. But here, "where everything in print and sound is still open to the echoes of the world, we cannot imagine what it is like to live isolated, hearing lies, only lies." But that print and sound has been gradually filled with vicious stories of an unbridled ruthlessness.

In Sousse the Germans took time to machine gun the cows on which the hospital depended for milk for the children and wounded. In Marseilles a German officer received a deputation of distracted mothers who came to ask for some meat to nourish their children and themselves. After listening to them he replied:

"You have nothing to eat? Kill yourselves; the problem will be solved." Goering meant what he said when he declared that "whoever is going to starve in Europe, it is not going to be the Germans."

We must be prepared to meet not only the destruction, the rubble and the human wrecks which were once strong men and women. We must be prepared to understand the shock, and the animal-like distrust which have been cultivated by dread and enforced by disease. Yet there will be helping hands extended to us when the time comes.

For Hitler did not, as Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle said in a speech only a few weeks ago, "succeed in bringing to his support great classes in the victim countries. Instead, in nation after nation, all groups arrayed themselves solidly against him, irrespective of their social doctrines. Poland, with a conservative government, fought him to the death, just as did Soviet Russia with a communist government. Norway and the Netherlands have resisted him both before and after their invasion as bitterly as Czechoslovakia. The British resistance was first carried on by a Tory government. It would be merely playing Hitler's game to pretend that the spirit of resistance is possessed only by those holding a particular social faith."

There will be many helping hands, yes, but there will be many indifferent and hostile ones as well. For thousands of these people have been bludgeoned into a mental and moral deadness from which it will take time—a long time—to revive.

They have learned to school themselves into disbelief, and their faith, even in their fellow-countrymen, has been badly damaged or totally shattered.

It is these people who will need our most thoughtful care. We can expect some help from them but we will need to give them all of ours. We will be guiding them, guarding them and eventually feeding and re-habilitating them. In many circumstances we will be doing it all for people who will show no evidence of friendliness or hope.

This issue of ARMY TALKS has taken for its subject the Europe to which many of us will probably go. It is better that we go prepared in mind as well as in fighting equipment.



QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION

THIS issue of ARMY TALKS deals with a subject which does not lend itself readily to the simple question and answer method of treatment. Discussion leaders may find it possible, however, to adapt the question method of earlier ARMY TALKS in this manner:

With the text as a starting point, they may build up with added detail and color, a picture of what the point of view and attitude of a civilian in one of the now-occupied countries must be. Then the discussion leader, having established his hypothetical family, may ask direct questions of men in the discussion group. Here is an example:

"You men may remember reading stories, and seeing pictures, in *The Stars and Stripes*, during the invasion of Sicily, of a sergeant who met his uncle in a little Sicilian town. The picture showed this soldier being given a big greeting and the story went on to say that the people in that town practically turned themselves inside out to be friendly, not only to the sergeant but to his whole outfit."

"I've just told you, roughly, what the people in Europe have been up against since their countries were invaded. Pvt. Popadopoulos, you have relatives in Greece. I'm going to ask you, in a few minutes, to tell us what you think will be their attitude—if this outfit ever gets to Greece. Sorensen, your people came from Norway, I'm going to call on you, too."

"I want you two men, and you, Spagnoli, and you, Le Fevre, to be ready to give us a three-minute summary of what you think the answers to questions like these will be, if we ever get to the countries from which your people came."

Q.: In the light of what you men know of the occupied countries, and the people who live in them, what do you think will be their first and biggest need, when we get there?

Q.: Do you think they will be (1) friendly? (2) indifferent? (3) hostile? Why?

Q.: How, in your opinion, will we be best able to convince the indifferent or hostile populations which we may meet, that they should cooperate with the Armies of the United Nations?

Q.: What do you think are the differences, if any, between the people in the occupied countries and the people back home in the United States?

Q.: What part of our task of understanding the people of Europe should be measured in terms of food?

Q.: Do you have any opinions on what, if anything, the United States and our Allies can do, during and after this war, to help Europe avoid future wars?

It is suggested that the discussion leader keep his questions simple in nature so that the men will find it as easy as possible to answer them in a brief, unprepared comment.

This technique will have two results, it will bring several men into the discussion at once and it will give the men who are called upon an added sense of participation in the Army Talks program. Instead of being something to which he sits and listens, it will become something in which he tells somebody something—in which he becomes, for a few minutes, a sort of authority in his own right.

Much of the value of this issue will be lost if the discussion leader simply reads the pamphlet to his men. Use it as the source, but not the text, for a brief talk of your own on the subject. Pitch that talk in terms the men will understand and rely as heavily as possible on the contributions which men of foreign parentage may be able to make to the discussion.

ARMY TALKS will appreciate comment or suggestions from discussion leaders as to how the publication could be improved. Do the men like it? What subject, of the list already published, provoked the most interest? What kind of topics do you feel would be most valuable for issues in the near future?

The editor of ARMY TALKS wants your reaction. Simply address a letter or post card to Editor, ARMY TALKS, Education Branch, Special Service Division, HQ SOS, APO 887, U.S. Army.

