

ARMY TALKS



Words are ~~W~~ Weapons, too!



Restricted

ARMY TALKS is a classified official publication of the United States Army in the European Theater of Operations. The material contained herein may not be quoted or republished, in whole or in part, nor may it be communicated, directly or indirectly, to persons not authorized to receive it, except by authority of the Commanding General, ETOUSA.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES ARMY

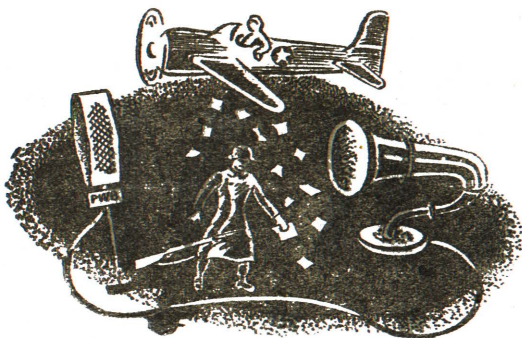


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Words are Weapons, Too!	3
Preparation	14-15
Questions for the Discussion	16

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.

THEREFORE, the statements and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily verified by, nor do they necessarily reflect the opinions of, the United States Army.

THE SOURCE OF MATERIAL must therefore be made clear at each discussion. All written material appearing in this publication has been written and edited by uniformed members of the Army and/or Navy, except where it is stated that a civilian or other outside source is being quoted.

ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

WORDS ARE WEAPONS, TOO!

CBATTERY had been pounding away, somewhere in Tunisia, at German positions for 48 hours. The gun crews of the 25-pounder battery didn't seem to be getting any place. The grimy gunners couldn't see the enemy. They didn't know what was going on in the minds of the invisible enemy over the next ridge. How long could they stand a pounding like this?

Information from Prisoners

In the Command Post a G-2 officer was working on the puzzle, trying to piece together from the information he had been able to gather, just what the situation was with the battalion of the Fifteenth Panzer Grenadiers which was the target of C Battery's guns. The Intelligence officer had the reports of patrols, he had talked to prisoners, and he had heard what Italian refugees said when they came in from the enemy area. These bits of data were fitted into the intelligence summary from his own Hq.

He was not satisfied with his conclusion but he could honestly make no other: Jerry was undoubtedly wobbly. How wobbly, the G-2 man could not say. Maybe Jerry was ready to surrender, maybe he had a week's fight left in him.

Something more than shellfire was needed. The G-2

man spoke to the battery commander for a few minutes and a call was put through to HQ.

"Send us up 50 number two nickels," asked the CO.

The next mule train that brought ammunition and K rations to the battery brought a couple of mule-loads of "nickels." The nickels looked like ordinary base-ejection smoke shells. But the smoke canisters had been removed and the casing was stuffed full of paper.

When one of the gunnery sergeants saw these queer smoke shells he asked his CO what went on. "It's PW stuff," said the Captain. "They're going to help us lick the Germans over there."

The gunners didn't like it. "Firing paper," they snorted. "Next thing you know we'll be spraying Jerry with perfume."

Leaflets Help Kayo Enemy

"What's PW?" they asked.

"Psychological warfare," said the CO. "We knock Jerry punch-drunk with these." He pointed to the explosive shells. "And the PW boys put a

horseshoe in the glove for the knock-out." He pointed to the paper-filled shells.

"What does them papers say?" asked a suspicious PFC. A PW officer produced a handful of leaflets in English.

Sgt. James Dugan, author of this issue of ARMY TALKS, is a former New York newspaperman now assigned to duty with the American Office of War Information, ETO. In the preparation of this article, Sgt. Dugan drew upon the resources of the civilian-military organization in the hands of whose members words are weapons and ideas are as devastating as blockbusters.

"We always furnish a translation in English so the men can see what they are firing."

The gunners read the leaflet:

"TRAPPED": The German troops were trapped at Stalingrad. They were fighting very bravely. More than 200,000 of them are dead. About 100,000 of them, amongst which there were Field Marshal Paulus and 21 generals, have surrendered.

"For whose good did so many find heroic death?"

"It did not help Germany, now fighting against the whole world in arms. . . ."

"Did it help the wives and mothers?" No comment is necessary about this.

"Did it help the soldiers themselves? According to Hitler it was their duty to die. But the German people say to all young Germans: 'Live for our future.'"

"TRAPPED!"

"You are trapped in Tunisia too. The more German soldiers are enticed into this trap, the more satisfied we shall be, as one of these days the trap will be closed.

"WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU?"

"Do you want to go home? Do you want to see your loved ones again?"

"Prisoners remain alive and see their homes again . . . so for you there is one solution—

"SURRENDER!"

"This leaflet enables you to go through our lines. You will be well

received and treated. At the end of the war you will go back to Germany. Use this leaflet. You will not be the first to do so by any means. There is only one solution—

PASS (PASSIERSCHEIN)

TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN OUTPOSTS: Any German soldier presenting this safe conduct is to be disarmed and made prisoner."

"Okay, men," said the Captain. "We'll fire a couple of rounds of these leaflet shells and see what happens."

The paper-filled shells were fixed so that they exploded 300 feet over the enemy position to the windward. The Battery watched the paper drift down on the German lines.

While they waited the men of the battery learned how PWB worked. That is the Psychological Warfare Branch of Allied Force HQ.

The field organizations who produce leaflets and broadcast to help the

armies are called Psychological Warfare Combat Teams. A combat team is made up of both civilians and soldiers, both British and American. How well this works is illustrated by the following extract from an Italian front report by an American PWB officer:—

"The really exciting thing about PWB is that it is a mixed British-American, military-civilian set-up. The mixture obtains all the way from the base to the front, where an American officer may be leader of the combat team attached to an American Army,

SOLDIERS who do their fighting with a rifle and bayonet, a long-range bomber or the machine tools of an Ordnance or Engineer workshop, are very likely to have a low opinion of the highly-trained specialists of the Psychological Warfare Combat Teams.

A FOOTSORE DOGFACE, staggering in under a full field pack from 20 miles in the British rain, could be pardoned for doubting the combat efficiency of a chair-borne sergeant from the psycho crew.

GERMAN MACHINE GUNNERS, coming through the lines in Africa and Italy to surrender, would change his mind, if he saw them. In this ARMY TALKS article, Sergeant Dugan explains how the men with typewriters help the men with Tommy guns—how we're all part of the same big team on the winning side in the biggest series of all.

with a British civilian writing the leaflets, an American civilian in charge of printing, and a British officer doing the liaison work with an American artillery battalion. *And it works.* Men are chosen for special abilities; linguists, printers, typesetters, cartoonists, pressmen, radio technicians, mechanics, etc. It is commanded by army officers with special intelligence corps qualifications. The leading civilians have assimilated officer rank. Everyone is in uniform.

Teams With Army Groups

PWB's highest echelon is on the General Staff. Its combat teams are attached to army groups. From there on the combat team may be divided down to small compact leaflet or radio units that function with divisional or sector groupings.

The combat team works as an integral part of the army unit with which it serves, like a Signal Corps or Medical detachment. The organization of Psychological Warfare teams is not original with the U.S. Army. The Russians have long provided for this type of warfare.

PW Not Concerned With Our Morale

The PW combat team has nothing to do with the morale of its own army; that is the job of Special Services, the Chaplains, the Red Cross, USO, etc., but it has everything to do with the morale of the German Army and home front.

The surrender leaflets that had been fired by Battery C were prepared at the headquarters of the Fifth Army by the Psychological Warfare Branch. The PWB team was working with the Commanding General, and its nickels—or paper shells—were at the beck and call of sector and unit commanders. The evening patrol came in with six Germans. The first German held up

a piece of paper and said, "Passierschein, Passierschein."

Twenty-two Germans had come by morning, taking the safe-conduct



"Pass" says: "You are Surrounded."

leaflet out of their shoes and hats, and saying, "Passierschein!"

"They're Great Stuff" Say Fighting Officers

C Battery moved up to where the Germans had been. "That paper is great stuff," said the battery. The lieutenant of the PWB team said, "We just help put on the finishing touches. You guys had them wobbly but you didn't know it. Jerry was ready to quit, but he didn't know how. If you fire this stuff at the right time and say the right thing—just sort of give them the truth about where they stand—It's dynamite."

On another sector in Tunisia a tough British gunner said of the leaflet shells, "We can put one on the German company commander's doorstep with the morning milk. If they send out a bunch of men with brooms, we shoot them up with something else."

Safe-conducts in Italian were a great success in the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns. The R.A.F. dropped a leaflet near Gabes which caused the surrender of an entire Italian tank battalion, officers and men. Near Tripoli, before the assault of the Mareth line, the Eighth Army shot a leaflet to the Italians in Tripoli, which promised them a thousand-mile march to Tunis. "It had an enormous

effect in mass desertions," said the official reports.

Safe-Conducts A Hit In Tunis and Sicily

Hundreds of enemy troops, both German and Italian, picked up safe-conduct leaflets and hid them against the day they had a chance to use them. "Nothing can happen to us now," they said half-jokingly, but feeling safe, none-the-less.

In Tunisia in March a funny illustration of the corrosive power of Allied leaflets occurred. An Italian Major named Vassalini surrendered with a safe-conduct leaflet. He was asked where he found it. He said that an Arab had picked it up and given it to one of his sergeants. The sergeant was a dutiful soldier and obeyed the standing order to turn it in to his CO. Major Vassalini read it and decided to use it.

Sold on Black Market

When Allied troops entered Bizerta, the Caid of Bizerta, the Arab chieftain of the city, reported that Allied airborne safe-conducts addressed to the Italian soldiers had been gathered up by local Arabs and sold on the black market to Italian soldiers.

At the last stage of the Tunisian campaign Italian youths who had been drafted suddenly into the Axis Army were often given a safe-conduct leaflet as a going-away present by their fond papas and mamas.

SUMMARY

Paper bullets—in the form of surrender appeals—were a potent factor in the final collapse of German and Italian forces in North Africa. This new form of an old idea is the job of the Psychological Warfare Combat Teams—a long

name meaning details specially trained to outsmart the enemy as the Infantry are trained to outshoot or the Air Force to outfly him. When the Air Force, the artillery and the infantry have him wobbling by constant attack, then the "brains department" moves in with a barrage of printed argument to give him the last push into quitting. This barrage is aimed at the enemy's pride in service and his sense of personal participation.

What are some of the ways in which Rommel's Afrika Korps was argued into giving up? If you were asked to write some leaflets to be scattered over Germany from American Flying Fortresses, what points would you make? How would you phrase leaflets for the civilians of the occupied countries intended to promote better understanding between allies?

Part of the Word War

Safe-conduct leaflets are just one part of the great war of words and ideas known as Psychological Warfare. The Psychological War is fought not only at the front, but crackles through the air around the world in a babble of tongues. Words by the million are dropped from the air on Germany and the occupied countries. The Nazis fear our words. The occupied countries of Europe welcome our words as their only access to truth.

What is Psychological Warfare?

Psychological Warfare is the power of truth added to the power of armed force. Psychological Warfare is what you say: warfare is what you do. They are inseparable.

For the United Nations it is a powerful weapon.

It is a losing weapon for the Nazis, although Dr. Goebbels and his

Propaganda Ministry are past masters of tricking up near facts to look like truth. They are the slickest rumor mongers in the business but they do not have the truth in their microphones and typewriters.

There are two main kinds of Psychological Warfare: (a) What you say to the enemy. (b) What you say to your friends or potential friends in the hands of the enemy. The psychological offensive is waged in two ways: (1) strategically: that is, principally to enemy civilians, to his home front, to the people behind his armies; (2) tactically: that is, combat psychological warfare as waged by the PWB teams.

The mediums of psychological warfare are many. The two main ones are by radio, and by the printed word and picture.

Berlin Can't Use Truth But Does Try Distortion

Berlin radio cannot use the truth but by distorting fragments of truth it can spread mischief. It can say, for instance, that Lord Haw Haw announced last night where the principal U.S. Army and Air Force installations were located in Great Britain. The sucker trap is sprung when this gets around the latrines. GIs who have been keeping their mouth shut think,

well, it doesn't matter, now that the enemy knows where my outfit is.

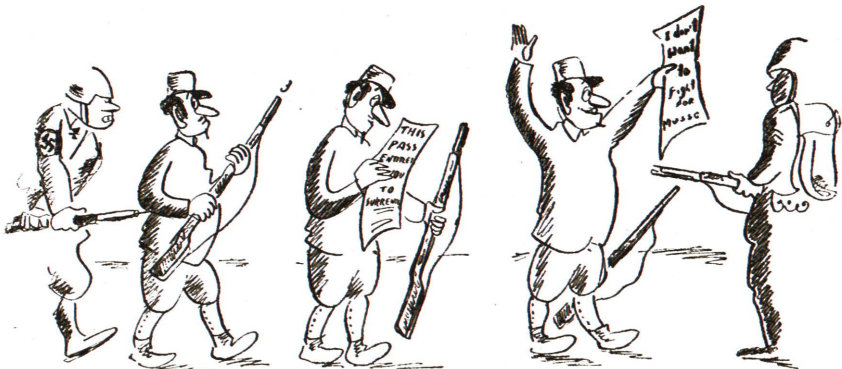
The clever part of the rumor is that Haw Haw does not know where the installations are and never made such a broadcast. Dr. Goebbels is fishing for suckers.

Nazis Try Scare Story Technique

Another familiar German radio trick is to broadcast hair-raising tales to English soldiers about fictitious insults from Americans. He tells the GIs about fictitious insults by Englishmen. He tells the English troops at the front they are carrying the American burden. He tells the Americans they are doing the whole job and the British are lying down. Pretty soon a couple of clucks from both armies are beating each other over the noggin. Dr. Goebbels has won a skirmish in the psychological warfare.

He cannot win battles. Dr. Goebbels has had dreams about little pieces of paper floating down on his factories and fronts.

Days before our planes began dropping the news of the Teheran conference on Germany, Dr. Goebbels was panicky about leaflets. Listen to him scream when he hears about the meeting of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. "The Allies snatch at paper



balls as poison for the soul and call for the disunity of those people who resist them bravely."

Sounded Like Echoes Of The Last War

His frightened tantrums sound very similar to the things the German bigwigs were saying in the last war.

The French 75 fired the first leaflet shells in that war. Marshal Von Hindenburg made a desperate appeal to Army and Homeland: "The enemy conducts his campaign against our spirit by various means. He bombards our front, not only with a drumfire of artillery but also with a drumfire of printed paper. Beside bombs which kill the body, his airmen throw down leaflets which are intended to kill the soul.

Hindenburg Warned Germans

"The enemy hopes that many a field-grey soldier will send home the leaflet which has innocently fluttered down from the air. At home it will pass from hand to hand and be discussed at the beer table, in families, in the drawing-room, in factories and in the street. Unsuspectingly many thousands consume the poison."

Later one of Hindenburg's most significant corporals was writing a book in jail. Adolf Hitler said in *Mein Kampf*: "This persistent propaganda began to have a real influence on our soldiers in 1915. The feeling against Prussia grew quite noticeable among Bavarian troops. In this direction the enemy propaganda began to achieve undoubted success from 1916 onwards."

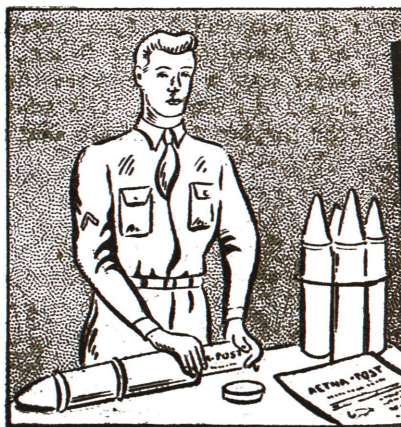
What Allied psychological warfare did to the Germans in the first World War is repeating itself more definitely in this war, because now our voices and our pamphlets go directly to the German home front, by radio and airplane.

Millions of leaflets are strewn on Germany by RAF and USAAF heavy bombers. Curiously enough most of this airborne printed matter is in the form of a simple newspaper, with the same kind of news you read in the *Kansas City Star*, *The Stars and Stripes*, or the *London Daily Express*. Truth is a shattering weapon. When we give the German people a simple map, showing their positions on the Russian and Italian fronts, it is a blow that no amount of Dr. Goebbels' needling can counteract.

Air Force Scatters Millions of Leaflets

As a preparation for the invasion of Sicily several million leaflets were strewn on the German and Italian positions. The leaflet was called "Capitulation with Honor." It was written by the commanding general and PWB officers. Seventy-two hours after the leaflet was written millions of copies were drifting into the Axis lines, dropped by the Strategic and Tactical Air Forces.

PWB teams, two of which were in



Leaflet "newspaper" was eddied Mt. Etna, and was delivered reports Russian vict

the first landings in Sicily, and were also in the second echelon on the beach at Salerno, worked under the command of sector commanders, producing on the spot leaflets addressed to enemy units in the immediate sector. This was the tactical or combat psychological warfare operation hitting on all cylinders.

PW Men Landed With Troops On Salerno Beach

The tens of thousands of prisoners who came in carried the leaflets back to our front lines. Eighty per cent. of the Italian prisoners of war taken in Sicily had read our leaflets. One scholarly prisoner knew Churchill's Mussolini Speech by heart. Fifteen million leaflets were distributed in one week to the Sicilian campaign.

An open letter to the Italian governor of Pantellaria was dropped on the island by the thousands. It appealed to him to surrender or take the responsibility for the terrible air bombing and naval fire Pantellaria was going to get.

A big part of psychological warfare

is what we say to our friends in Hitler-occupied Europe. The BBC, with its thousands of programs in multiple languages, day and night, for more than four years of war, is by far the biggest contact the occupied countries have with their fighting allies. The mysterious Colonel Britton's V campaign was an outstanding feat of BBC.

BBC Broadcasts Play Major Part In PW Battles

The V-for-Victory symbol that Churchill and crowds exchange and that every small kid in the world throws at you to get a stick of gum is the result of a few words spoken on the BBC European service in 1941 by Col. Britton.

Col. Britton in the minds of most Europeans is a figure as well known as many of our generals, although it is not his real name, and he does not sit in the councils of grand strategy. He merely said to the people of Europe: "The symbol V stands for Victory, Victoire," or whatever your word for Allied triumph might be.

"Col. Britton" Is Symbol

In Morse it is dit-dit-dit dah; in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony it is the repeated theme which you might sing to the words: "Fate Knocks on Doors." BBC's European service still comes on the air with the ominous three short knocks and one long knock on a door.

The V campaign drove Dr. Goebbels crazy. V's were painted on walls and pavements all over Europe. Beethoven's notes were whistled in the street. America went V-crazy with the rest. The V campaign, beautiful in its simplicity and catchiness, did two important things: it gave slave Europe a sign and a hope of victory over Hitler; it united people in Europe. And, equally important in psychological warfare, it gave BBC an overwhelming indication of how widely its broadcasts



for Germans fighting around them by shell. Front page s, fall of Mussolini.

were heard. Goebbels couldn't beat it. He finally ordered the block fuhrers to paint it up themselves and pretend it meant Nazi Victory.

All United Nations Help

At BBC studios there is a colorful army of psychological warfare people. There are Indians, Chinese, Japanese, African Negro, Danes, Poles, Czechs, French, Dutch, Anti-Nazi Germans,



Arabs, in fact people of every nation and language, who pour out the news to the world, helping the United Nations armed forces in their military operations.

News Sheets, Magazines And Picture Books, All Are Used

Printed matter to France, Belgium, Norway, Holland, and other occupied countries is mostly delivered by air. Both the U.S. Office of War Information and the British Propaganda Services produce regular newspapers delivered by air in many languages. Again it is plain, factual, unvarnished news—that is the best psychological warfare. Europe is under a news black-out at the hands of the Nazis. Except for the brave underground press, the

stuff that comes by air is Europe's only access to the facts.

Not only weekly news sheets, but tiny monthly magazines, picture books, and news leaflets are dropped. Editors of underground papers in Europe rely on British and OWI papers for confirmation of news that they may have heard indistinctly on the radio.

On the most dangerous paper route in the world, newsboys gather up the papers from the air and deliver them from door-to-door. The Nazis shoot people for being found with Allied newspapers on their persons.

Pilots Like Paper "Bombs" Which They Call "Nickels"

Some fliers go bugs on leaflets, which they call "nickels." A Mitchell crew in North Africa, which was bombing Italian rail communications used to carry a couple of bundles of leaflets every time they went out to bomb. A PWB officer watched them stuffing leaflets into wine bottles before a mission. "What goes on?" he wanted to know. "This is psychological warfare, Mac," a gunner said. "Before we hit the target we take a fake bomb run over the nearest flak crew and throw these bottles out. They whistle just like bombs and the flak crew takes cover. Then we go on and bomb as per schedule."

As a matter of fact, every time an aircrew chalks up a bomb with "This one is from Aunt Rosie in Brooklyn," it's a kind of unconscious appreciation of psychological warfare. Take the Fortress crew that got tired of listening to a Berlin platter jockey named Midge, who used to coo to them in a bogus American accent between Benny Goodman records. They filled up a dummy bomb with some interesting gifts, including contraceptives and instructions on what to do with same,

and dropped it in Midge's territory. They also made a few requests, including: "Dear Midge: Please play Der Fuehrer's Face."

Benny Goodman Disks A Favorite

Benny Goodman seems to be a weapon for both sides on the radio. Although the Nazis won't allow their own people to listen to what they call "degenerate American jazz," they play hot American music all the time to bait their propaganda shows for Allied Troops.

SUMMARY

Psychological warfare is what you say to the enemy as distinct from what you do to him, in other kinds of war. It is one of the most powerful weapons we have. Radio and printed matter, either in the form of words or pictures, are the principal psychological warfare agencies. They are aimed at destroying the enemy's will to fight as a bullet in the leg or shoulder destroys his ability to fight. Shell-borne leaflets were used successfully in the last war to destroy German confidence in the command.

What are the two main kinds of psychological warfare? What

are some of the tricks the enemy has used, along the same lines? What part in this kind of war is taken by messages to the peoples of the occupied countries? How are they reached? (Perhaps some men of the group, who speak French, German or Italian, have heard the BBC foreign language broadcasts and could describe them briefly for the others. Incidentally, these broadcasts to Europe provide an excellent background for an understanding of the causes and progress of the war.)

The Nazis try to get over their radio stuff by listing the names of U.S. prisoners-of-war. The somewhat comical lengths they will go to to increase their Crossley rating is illustrated by the case of Lt. John Winant, Fortress pilot and son of the U.S. Ambassador to England.

Nazis Fake An Interview

Several weeks after Lt. Winant was reported missing on the Munster raid, the Nazi radio reported him a prisoner and promised to put Lt. Winant on the air. Instead a German war reporter came on with an alleged interview with Lt. Winant. The reporter said Lt. Winant identified himself by name, rank and serial number. The reporter then asked if Lt. Winant arrived by parachute, unhurt. This was obviously



true, so Winant nodded, according to the reporter. Was Lt. Winant glad to arrive on the ground unscratched? The reporter took Winant's silence to mean that this was true. "Aha, so you are glad to be in Germany!" said the reporter.

Russians Have Formed Free German Committee

The Russians throw a Sunday punch in the radio offensive against Germany. German prisoners, including many captured Generals, have formed a Free German Committee, which the Russians allow to broadcast to Germany. The Free German Committee says, "Throw out Hitler and the Nazis. Let the decent people that are left in Germany get rid of these murderers and thieves and make peace with the world."

The Germans have nothing to say to the Russians. They don't even try.

As territory is won the PWB teams will move in as they moved in through Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy, fundamentally applying themselves to the military needs of the situation, but also putting out news, pictures, movies, and radio shows for the civilians in the newly-won territory.

Freed Areas Are News Hungry

It is hard to realize how important psychological warfare becomes in this first phase of occupying newly-won territory. The Italian and Sicilian people, for example, were left without food, electricity, and sewage by the Germans. Equally important, they were left without reliable news of what was happening. The radio stations, newspapers, and movies were either closed up or disorganized.

In this situation it is absolutely necessary for the security of our armies that there be no civilian hindrances to their operations—hindrances caused

by the confusion. Allied Military Government officials must reorganize the local governments, get utilities operating, encourage the reopening of factories, and the continuance of agriculture. This big job of reorganization must be explained to the people by radio, movies, and printed matter, including newspapers, posters, and handbills, and it must be done quickly and correctly to minimize the confusion.

The responsibility of the PWB teams is to get information and directions to the people. This part of the job is as important as the work at the front on the enemy. Both activities are designed to save the lives of our fighting men.

PW Officer In Plane "Captured" One Town

In Sicily the PWB men found problems they had not anticipated. In one case there were no bombing aircraft available for dropping a special leaflet on a small town. The leaflet said, if you want to avoid shelling by the Allies, throw the Fascists out and display white flags.

A PWB officer flew over the town in a Cub chucking out his leaflets. Before he had turned to fly home the town looked as if everyone had hung his washing out at once.

In re-establishing a free press in Italy the PWB hit a clinker. They would chuck out the Fascist editor and turn the sheet over to some trustworthy Italian reporters who were instructed to change the policy.

New Brooms Too Clean

The eager new editors made up headlines like ALLIES SWEEP ON HUNDREDS OF MILES. MILLIONS OF PRISONERS TAKEN. They had been so drilled in reporting Mussolini's whoppers that they didn't know how to tell the truth. The PWB

officers spent weeks teaching them how to write a simple fact.

That is psychological warfare, in which facts are good weapons, and lies will sooner or later blow up in the user's face. It is going to play a big part in coming operations to aid the man at the gun. PWB combat teams will be there to put the horseshoe in the glove. They will work in the air, and at the front, as well as at base. Their strategy and tactics will be in harmony with the military and air operation.

PW Saves Fighters' Lives

In the battle lines and in the military zones behind them, psychological warfare drives home the fact to Jerry that he has lost. It seeks to make him do something about it, once he realizes this fact. Thus, psychological warfare works to save lives of Allied soldiers.

The Allied armies, the air forces, and the navies are the men who lick Jerry—with all the armament of war. The PWB teams make him realize it and give him an out. Surrender on the front. Surrender at home.

Passierschein!

SUMMARY

Radio "Interviews" with American prisoners are a favorite device of the German propagandists. On the Eastern Front Nazis and Russians wage a constant battle of propaganda and counter-propaganda—with our Allies well in the lead. The liberated areas, too, call for special attention from our poster and broadcast boys. They won't win the war—but they can help, a lot. Probably no branch of our Army is called upon to keep in closer touch with current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of the peace.

What part do Psychological Warfare Teams play in the pacification of captured territory? How can their efforts help or hinder our troops as they take over territory formerly held by the enemy? Putting yourself in the position of citizens of the recaptured lands, what avenue of approach would seem a good one to win their friendship and help?





Preparation

We have given a new name to a part of warfare which is as old as the Greeks and as long recognized as the Roman Empire. But together with the name we have added increased skill, strategy and technique to perfecting a department whose power was not appreciated and whose scope had not been extended.

Psychological Warfare, which is an awkward and somewhat pretentious name, merely means attacking the mental and emotional attitude of the enemy, preferably at a moment when he is most likely to submit and to surrender. It is the part of war which can be and is being waged constantly by words. Never before in the history of men's wars have words had so much striking power as they have today, because never before have they had such scope. They not only can be shot by means of projectiles from guns; they can be carried for hundreds of miles over the air by radio. They have already proved of great value in establishing a state of mind, and then finally of clinching it. The same means which one army can use to bolster the morale of its troops, the opposing army may use to undermine and destroy that morale.

At this moment we are engaged in active combat with an enemy who knows most of the tricks attached to psychological warfare and from whom we have been able to learn much. Dr. Goebbels is one of the leaders of this type of warfare, and one of the earliest to turn it to its present wide use. But the one marked difference between the German method and our own, and the one difference which will in the long run spell defeat for the Germans, is that they have nearly always resorted at best to a tinged and distorted version of the facts, and at worst to the most malicious and false kind of untruth. The German has attempted to build his world by his own arrangement of the truth, without morals and without scruple. The Americans and their allies have countered by an equal amount of spoken and mechanical skill, and with the increased power of the straight facts, the open truth. No amount of mental sleight of hand, of brain gymnastics can in the long run hold out against that combination. As you can see from reading the text, it has proven its strength in Italy and elsewhere.

Most of us know very little about this thing called Psychological Warfare, and most of us are perhaps inclined to be suspicious of a thing with a complicated

name that produces results with words rather than weapons. But don't forget that we have nearly always been affected in our attitudes and even in our actions by the spoken or the written word; at home, in school, in church, by the newspapers, and by the books, magazines and advertisements which make up so large a part of our daily living under normal circumstances. Psychological warfare is merely the strategic application by means of the most modern instruments of men's oldest and longest tried weapon—ideas. Its success has already saved many lives on both sides, and will continue to do so to the end of the war. The material gathered and the stories told in this issue of ARMY TALKS offer us all a remarkable chance to know something about an entirely different side of the war. It is in many ways one of the most humane aspects of man's fighting abilities, and it is at the same time one of the most exciting. We cannot afford to remain ignorant of so high-powered a part of the machine which may still be to many a "secret weapon."

In setting up the discussion group for this topic it is suggested to the leader that he attempt to bring as much realism to his hour as possible. If he has a radio and loud-speaker available he might introduce a little psychological warfare into the discussion by reproducing some German, French and British versions of the same news story. Again, if he can get them he might secure as many different types of propaganda as possible and have them pinned up around the room. He might have one man act as a German radio announcer, to be followed by another acting as an American announcer. The one could Goebbel-ize his statements, and the other speak with the blunt, unvarnished statements we are accustomed to hear. There are many ways in which the extending power of the spoken word can be shown. The following questions, with some accompanying answers, are taken from material found in the text. What direct connection can you see between the methods of Psychological Warfare and the following five points?

- a. Confidence in the command.
- b. Pride in service and a sense of personal participation.
- c. Knowledge of the causes and progress of the war.
- d. A better understanding of our allies.
- e. An interest in current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of the peace.

How might the methods of Psychological Warfare be used to weaken and destroy these five points?



QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION

- Q.:** Name two types of psychological warfare, and define them.
- A.:** A. Strategic—the enemy's home front.
B. Tactical—to his front line troops.
- Q.:** What is a psychological warfare combat team? p. 4.
- Q.:** Give examples of German propaganda you have heard on the radio or by rumor. p. 7.
- Q.:** What general propaganda themes is the enemy plugging now?
- Q.:** Name four ways our psychological warfare message reaches the enemy.
- A.:** a. Leaflet shells.
b. Airborne leaflets.
c. Radio.
d. Distribution of leaflets by patrols.
- Q.:** What is the best propaganda?
- A.:** The truth, facts, news, the reality of the situation.
- Q.:** Why was the V campaign effective? p. 9.
- Q.:** When is leaflet warfare most useful—at the beginning of an offensive or toward the end? p. 3.
- Q.:** What is a safe-conduct?
- Q.:** What do you think we should say to the enemy under the following military circumstances?
- A. When his food supply is poor.
B. When enemy troops are fighting away from home for two years.
C. When important new Russian victories are announced.
D. When facing an outfit with a small proportion of German officers and N.C.O.s, and the rest of the troops are Austrian, Czech, Rumanian, etc.
E. When we have air supremacy at the front.
- Q.:** How should we combat German propaganda designed to discredit our allies and cause dissension between British and American soldiers? Give examples of such German propaganda you have heard and answer each one.
- Q.:** What type of propaganda do the Russians put out to the Germans?
- Q.:** Suppose you wanted to find out where a certain Nazi airdrome was located? What kind of a rumor would you start in the locality of this airdrome to get the information?
- Q.:** What is the final purpose of psychological warfare? What are you trying to get the enemy to do?

The topic for next week's ARMY TALKS will be "The Yank in Britain."
For additional copies of ARMY TALKS inquire of your Special Service Officer.

