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Cities in the News. Berlin.

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a of the most expensive hotels, apartment houses, stores and night clubs used to be situated.

Berlin, in its great days, was a tremendously ambitious community. Everything there seemed streamlined, dynamic, moving with a nervous, somewhat hectic impetus. The Berliners prided themselves on the dashing tempo, the high-strung, vehement rhythm of their native city. Whatever Berlin produced or displayed had to be the best, the biggest, the newest. Berlin's subway functioned more swiftly and smoothly than the obsolete "Metro" of Paris; Berlin's theaters vied with the dramatic attractions of Moscow and New York; Berlin's women tried frantically to outdo the womanhood of other capitals in chic and sauciness; Berlin's social institutions were matchlessly progressive and well organized; Berlin's night life was as wicked and glamorous as any provincial visitor could possibly hope to find it.

Maybe Berlin was not the creative center of Germany—that strangely decentralized country whose cultural energies were dispersed over the wide area from Hamburg and Koenigsberg to Cologne and Munich. Nevertheless, Berlin was the capital in the fullest sense of the word—the pulsating heart of the nation.

Keen and responsive, always hankering for sensations, the big city absorbed political and intellectual currents from everywhere. It was its function and force to organize whatever moods were floating throughout the land; to focus and dramatize the desires of a diffuse, inarticulate people. When the general vein was hoisterously patriotic, as during the first World war, the capital surpassed all other places in vociferous demonstrations. When the vogue was hysterical-apocalyptic, in the post-war period, Berlin did a great job in displaying misery and vice on a colossal scale. Later, during the years of European construction and collaboration—that promising and transient interlude under the auspices of the League, Briand and Stresemann—Berlin became civilized and cosmopolitan. Then came Hitler, and the changeable metropolis promptly revealed, and exhibited glaringly, the most dangerous aspects of its character. Even more provocative than it had been under the Emperor, Nazi Berlin established itself as the most arrogant and aggressive capital of the world.

Then came the war. And now? It is difficult to imagine a Berlin in ruins. It seemed somehow indestructible. Had not Goering boasted that no enemy plane would reach the capital? But his much-vaunted anti-aircraft system proved inadequate. Whole districts—Wilmerdorf, Charlottenburg and others—are reported to be "completely flattened," knocked beyond recognition by our furious bombardments. The main shopping streets of the western area—Tauentzien Strasse, Joachimstaler Strasse and half the Kurfuerstendamm—are practically wiped out, according to dispatches from Sweden and Switzerland. The Zoo railway station, near the Kurfuerstendamm, was repeatedly hit, and the Tempelhof Airdrome, near the southern edge of the city, was so badly damaged that all traffic had to be canceled.

We read about Berliners camp-

Autographed Books, Pictures on Display At Service Club 2

A display of autographed books, signed photographs, original manuscripts and drawings, contributed by nearly 100 celebrities, will be exhibited this evening and Friday and Saturday nights in the Blue Room of Service Club No. 2.

The collection was secured by T/3 Klaus Mann, who is planning to auction the various articles at War Bond rallies in some of the neighboring communities.

The exhibition will open at 8 o'clock this evening, with a short introductory speech by Sgt. Mann, and will be displayed again at 8 o'clock on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Included in the collection are contributions from Wendell L. Willkie, Walter Lippman, Pearl Buck, Albert Einstein, Upton Sinclair, John Steinbeck, Thomas Mann, Clifton Fadiman, Franz Werfel, Thornton Wilder, Igor Strawinsky, Charles Boyer, Edward G. Robinson, Katherine Cornell, Helen Hayes, Katharine Hepburn, Marlene Dietrich, Hedy Lamarr and many others.

adventures of the past 10 years? How will it survive its present calamity and future punishment? Will it ever regain its brisk vitality and austere charm? Will it atone? Will it improve? Will it ever find its better self again?

CITIES IN THE NEWS

BERLIN

By T/3 KLAUS MANN.

Berlin is not a beautiful city. Situated on the gray little River Spree, in a bleak, sandy plain, the capital of the Reich—the largest city on the continent, next to Paris—cannot compete with the French metropolis or with London, Vienna and Rome—indeed not even with the picturesque German cities of Munich, Hamburg, Dresden or Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

As in New York City, most of Berlin's buildings were put up after 1850, and its population, like New York's, has almost doubled since the beginning of this century. Berlin is full of those architectural nightmares typical of a period and attitude that has become popular as "the Gay Nineties." They may have been quivering gay, but what remains of them couldn't be more depressing. It is to the gloomy facades of these bourgeois fortresses that Berlin owes its appearance of pretentious ugliness. There is nothing quite as hideous in the history of modern architecture as what is known as the style of the "Gründerjahre" in Berlin—which means the period following the victorious war against France

in 1870. It was the most prosperous and the most vulgar period Germany ever passed through.

Of course, Berlin offers some impressive views and can boast of fine historic monuments like the imposing baroque structure of the Arsenal, or Zeughaus, in the heart of the old city. The famous avenue, Unter den Linden (Under the Linden trees) is undeniably dignified and representative, with its broad, splendid perspective from the Brandenburg Gate down to the Royal Castle; yet it falls short of the corresponding gala street in Paris, the matchless Champs Elysees.

One of the most pleasant features of Berlin is the Tiergarten—a 630-acre park with trees, lakes and cafe terraces, extending from the sandstone arch of the Brandenburg Gate westward to the residential district of Charlottenburg. The Tiergarten thus connects the two centers of the capital—on the one hand the stately area of Unter den Linden, Friedrich Strasse, and Wilhelm Strasse, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other public offices are located; and, on the other hand, the new western center with its fashionable shopping streets around the busy boulevard called Kurfuerstendamm. In this part of the city, and still further toward its western periphery, many

ing in emergency bunkers, improvised air raid shelters, leaving the capital by the thousands, for the temporary safety of neighboring villages or the towns of southern Germany. Fifty thousand of them, we are told, sought refuge in Poland, of all places! What grim irony! The frightened "supermen" escaping to the very country which most cruelly suffered under the Nazi scourge.

Evidently, the nerves of Berlin's men and women begin to tell the constant merciless strain under which they are forced to live, thanks to their beloved Fuehrer. Neutral observers draw a picture of panic in the German capital. "The wiping out of Hamburg is a terrible phantom making Berlin a real madhouse," as a Swiss correspondent put it. "The war of nerves has reached a peak in Berlin hitherto thought impossible."

Who dares to foretell in what shape, and in what frame of mind, Berlin will emerge from its sinister

of St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Minneapolis. Sgt. Aulse has been in the Army fourteen months.