

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Not So Dreamy Vienna.

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have died of battle injuries, while 98 have been captured since the first Allied soldier set foot on a Normandy beach.

Even bigger than the battle loss list, however, is the toll of Wehrmacht commanders who have been sent into "retirement" by a former house painter's intuition. As of March 1, this group totaled 187, including 23 field marshals and colonel generals. A field marshal corresponds to an American five-star general, and a colonel general to a four-star general.

The victims of the purge which followed the July 20 bomb attack on Hitler's life are not included in these two categories. A conservative guess at the number of German generals who were lopped as a result of that episode is 20, but some observers place the number between 50 and 100.

Actually, in a quantitative sense, the impressive-looking casualty toll does not mean much. When the war began Hitler had 300 full-strength divisions, meaning a minimum of 3,500 generals, not counting those in reserve and training formations. During the war there inevitably have been promotions to generalships from lower ranks of the army.

Qualitatively, however, the losses in generals have been significant. Most of those who are now on ice, permanently or otherwise, were trained under the old German General Staff and were considered the cream of the crop, while their successors, now faced with a crushing Allied squeeze, are thought much less capable as soldiers.

Not So Dreamy Vienna

Vienna, the Austrian capital on the Danube River, is internationally known for its natural and architectural beauty, for its serene charm, its mellow and graceful culture. To the average tourist, Vienna is the city of Mozart, Beethoven, and Johann Strauss, the city of splendid Baroque palaces and nostalgic waltzes, the city where you can drink the best *Heuriger* (a kind of new, sweet and remarkably potent wine) and where you can eat the most delicious pastry and *Wiener Schnitzel* (a specially prepared veal cutlet with a breaded crust).

Life in Vienna, as the older generation remembers it and as it survives in Hollywood productions, was easy-going, leisurely, romantic. Even if the rule of the Hapsburg monarchy was often reactionary, it was delightfully slipshod, inefficient and often good-natured.

What most people are apt to forget, however, is the fact that Vienna, for all its waltz-intoxicated *Schlamperei*, commanded amazing reserves of vitality and constructive impetus. In 1918, after the collapse of the Hapsburg Empire, things looked pretty grim for the Austrian metropolis. But it was just then, during the years following World War I, that Vienna proved its spirited energy

and endurance. The capital of a defeated and impoverished little country managed, under the most trying conditions, to become one of the most progressive communities in Europe and in the world.

The men then in charge of the City Administration carried out a bold social program which included one of the most extensive housing projects ever undertaken by any government. Hundreds of thousands of workers were settled in spacious, clean, hygienic community tenements constructed by the most competent Austrian architects. The city also came to boast of the best public hospitals and asylums, the most advanced popular schools, one of the finest universities in Europe, the greatest and most beautiful public baths.

These progressive tendencies were curtailed by the dictatorships of Dollfuss and Schuschnigg, then ruthlessly crushed by Hitler. But the people of Vienna had at least proved that they were not just a lot of quaint, old-fashioned originals as presented in musical comedies. History may yet give them another chance to salvage their beautiful, now badly damaged city.

An Answer In Shambles

More and more observers last week were coming forward with the same simple answer to the problem of how to treat Germany after the war. The answer, offered by correspondents who have seen the ruins of German cities east and west of the Rhine, was that the problem has already been solved. Havoc wrought by Allied bombers and accentuated by advancing Allied armies has been so great that Germany may not become a modern industrial nation again for many decades.

The first example of visual mass wreckage was Cologne, whose historic cathedral stood pathetically unhurt amid endless stretches of rubble and the innumerable skeletons of factories. Then followed Frankfurt, on the Allied bombers' priority list since the start of the war. At least half of the city was a total loss. Kassel, once the center of the Nazis' aircraft and locomotive industries and a main railroad junction of central Germany, was listed as half destroyed more than a year ago. When entered by Allied troops, the estimate looked conservative. Karlsruhe, taken by the French, was at least one-third destroyed.

Most of this damage had been officially reported in a combined summary of the RAF and the U. S. 8th Air Force late in March, before the cities were taken. But figures on paper could not tell convincingly what the eyes could see. There were more Colognes and Kassels to come, according to the summary. In the 2,150 acres which make up the notorious Krupp armament works in Essen, not one of the hundreds of