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U.S. Officers Lured To Nazi Principles, Erika Mann Reports.

Mann, Erika

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Reply to Mr. John Ward's open^L letter of May 25th.

I am a reporter (accredited for the past three years to the U.S. Forces) and as such obliged to report to the American public whatever ~~hkhkhkhkhkhkh~~ events, trends or developments appear to deserve their attention. The ~~Whhh~~ ^{facts,} presented in my article of May 20th were of general significance ; to submit them was a reporter's job. But arbitrarily to denounce a couple of officers who - as has been stated explicitly - ".... are not alone among their countrymen..." would be an informer's job. I am not an informer. So much for the "naming of names". As for Mr. Ward's own, the names-calling-department, he seeks to insult me by calling me a "Johnny come-lately American". Contending, however, that what matters is not so much the date of Johnny's arrival, as his performance ever since, I am not insulted.

Erika Mann

U.S. Officers Lured By Nazis, Says Writer

U.S. officers are being lured to Nazi principles, Erika Mann reports in another article, the second she has written on life in the present-day Reich. Page 2.

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May 20th

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* * * May

Erika Mann Asked 25¢ To 'Name Names'

Why did not Erika Mann name names, and why did not she rebuke the person or persons on the spot?

Don't you think the American people ever get fed up with these "Johnny come-lately Americans," telling us their "private opinions."

Chicago.

JOHN WARD.

* * * 2

U.S. Officers Lured To Nazi Principles, Erika Mann Reports

Anti-Semitism and Belief

In War with Russ Crop Out

Following is another article by Erika Mann, daughter of the famous German author, Thomas Mann, discussing life in the present-day Reich. Miss Mann recently returned from a nine-month tour of Germany. The opinions in her report are her own.

BY ERIKA MANN.

"As an American, I consider it my privilege to be anti-Semitic!"

The sentence, thrown by the little military government captain at a cluster of frauleins and fraus, prompted no spoken comment. Very handsome in the Parisian evening gowns, the German ladies nodded in smiling agreement and the captain went on:

"These unprintable Jews!" he screamed. "These displaced persons—unprintables. They're short of clothes, we're told; why, sure, they are—lazy, overstuff—crooks, getting so fat, they want new clothes every week."

* * *

HE WAS stationed at X, where 6,000 Jewish displaced persons were living in barracks built for 2,500 Wehrmacht soldiers. The UNRRA official in charge had recently resigned in protest against the inhuman and dangerously unsanitary conditions prevailing at the camp.

The captain was fairly drunk. "Well, major," he yelled, "aren't you going to back me up?"

The major, somewhat less expansive than his comrade-in-arms, gravely confirmed the latter's charges.

"See, we're all of one mind in this man's army!"

* * *

IN THE adjoining room, our host, an attractive American in full dress, was dancing with his wife, talking German to her.

"Etwas laut (a bit noisy)," he said, looking worriedly at the group next door.

Dr. Manfred Curry from Boston, moved to Nazi Germany in 1935. But the beautiful New England mansion on the Bavarian Lake Ammer which he's inherited from his mother was not the only reason for his staying in the Reich.

He got married there—to the luscious redhead, our hostess, a lady well known and liked in leading German circles.

Owing, perhaps, to the influence of his wife, the former Mrs. Fritz Thyssen, Dr. Curry was never molested—let alone duly interned—during the entire war. The American physician enjoyed life under the Nazis, just as he was enjoying it now.

* * *

TONIGHT'S DINNER—a black-market affair of dreamlike quality and dimensions—could not but have been a full success. Too bad that at present matters seemed to be getting slightly out of hand.

Evidently, that Jewish chap over there—an American medical officer of some influence—didn't like the conversation which so pleased the Germans.

And what was that other captain telling that war correspondent whom nobody knew?

Here is what he told me:

"Curry," he said, "knows his stuff. Wants a factory unfrozen he's interested in. Junkers parts and that sort of business. That's why military government has been asked here in force. Our doc, too, is here for a reason. Curry wants another hospital to be turned over to him. Boy, what a racket!"

* * *

HE SHRUGGED disgustedly, while Mrs. Thyssen-Curry approached for a chat.

"As a war correspondent," she said, "you can likely tell me when war with Russia will break out. Manfred says maybe in 10 days. You agree, yes?"

I did not.

Bravely swallowing her dis-

appointment, Mrs. Curry said that all Germany thought the war imminent, because so many Americans said so and also because of Mr. Churchill's speech.

"And Mr. Churchill," she added sweetly, "has been the German national hero for so long that habitually we believe him."

I laughed, though actually I felt anything but gay.

* * *

PARTIES LIKE this one were going on nightly in scores of mansions, castles and hunting lodges all over the U.S. zone. While tens of thousands of American soldiers declined to partake in pleasures which, they knew, were offered in the spirit of exchange, hundreds kept accepting and eventually paid the inevitable price.

Nor were the captain and the major alone among their countrymen in teaching the Germans that racial hatred was no prerogative of theirs.

* * *

OUR HOSTESS, moreover, was right. According to some Americans our war against Russia was about to begin.

Abusing the "limies," the "frogs" and the rest of our Allies with equal fervor, these ambassadors of ill will made it appear as if the struggle to come would find us at the side of the resurrected "master race."

Hence the eager gleam in the eyes of Frau Thyssen-Curry.

And hence the utter failure of our German re-education program. Neither de-Nazification, nor war crime trials; neither courses in democracy, nor the destruction of Nazi books, will further that program in the least.

Two things and two things alone would secure its ultimate success.

—The strength and the clarity of purpose which only Allied unity could provide.

—The living example; a performance, certain to command the respect of all, while arousing in the best the desire to imitate our ways.