

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Wood-action in munich.

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RCA
exERIKA MANN
proEVENING STANDARD LONDON
HYDE

Munich's two Buergermasters, Dr. Scharnagl and Herr Wimmer, have made another effort to enlist the services of the city's male population for the so-called "wood action" (Holz Aktion). In a fervent appeal printed on hundreds of bright green posters the officials state that 1.) no coal will be available this winter for domestic use. 2.) Owing to the assistance rendered by the occupying power nobody will have to freeze, if "we, too, are ready to do our share". 3.) Wood is plentiful in Bavaria. Thus far, however, only a few hundred wood cutters have ~~trained~~ ^{TURNED} up; thousands are needed in addition. Able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 55 are urged to volunteer for this duty of honour. 4.) Pay, food and beer are guaranteed.

The poster makes ^{odd} ~~odd~~ reading. That, in the face of existing conditions, the good people of Munich should hesitate to supply themselves with wood, seems hard to understand. All the harder since no transportation difficulties exist. Contrary to plan Army authorities have agreed to back the "Aktion" with American trucks and gasoline. Nor can a shortage of man-power be held responsible for Munich's nonperformance. In recent weeks thousands of old party members have been dismissed from the police forces, the fire brigades, the railway and other services. While these Nazis were considered unfit for public office, they would be welcome to the timber job.

Observers here advance two possible reasons for the wood failure. 1.) The citizens of Munich refuse to believe that there will actually be no coal. Or, rather, they believe, that they will not under any circum-

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stances be permitted to freeze to death. Since they a) prefer coal to wood, b) would like to see their forests preserved and c) are not overly fond of working hard, they simply wait for the Americans to take the necessary steps.

2.) The wood fiasco ^{is} ~~may~~ symptomatic of the general state of mind prevailing in Bavaria. Passive resistance may be the order of the day. There has not as yet been any large scale, organized sabotage, but many scattered incidents have been reported. The S.S. men who caused these ~~incidents~~ ^{DISTURBANCES} were aided and abetted by civilians.

In the Southern Bavarian hills, around Miesbach, Rosenheim, Garmisch and Bad Toelz and estimated force of 1500 SS continues to be at large. The storm troopers are equipped with workable fire arms and receive their food supplies from nearby villages. Their activities consist mainly of looting, sniping and wire cutting and are not on the whole directed against American personnell. In at least one instance, however, a Military Government official has been assaulted. Having ~~been~~ been stripped of all his belongings, including his car, the officer was badly beaten, tied to a tree and left to his fate.

Jeep drivers in this area have returned to front line habits. Once again their vehicles are adorned with angle irons as a protection against wires stretching across the road.

So persistent were the reports of S.S. delinquency in Southern Bavaria that a whole battalion of mountain infantry has finally been dispatched to ~~put~~ round up the outlaws and, should they offer resistance, to defeat them in battle.

At the same time American authorities are searching for a number of "black" radio stations known to exist in these parts.

Official transmissions have been "jammed" repeatedly by broadcasts allegedly emanating from Radio Berlin or other legal stations. Such disturbances occurred simultaneously in several cities, indicating that their authors control a sizable network. Their purpose is to cause dissatisfaction and panic among the ^{population} ~~population~~ and to create an atmosphere of suspicion among the allies.

Here are some of the "news items" dissipated by black stations:

"The Russians are about to occupy Bavaria..... ~~AmthengBgtghgaga~~
Food rations in the British sector are twice as large as in the American zone..... Unlike the Americans the French have purged real Nazi criminals only, while sparing the little man - party member or not.

Many Germans repeat these stories, ~~chhhhh~~ because they believe in either ~~the~~ their authenticity, or their propagandistic value.

While subversive elements are obviously on the job, their numerical strength is not at present easily determined. Nor has any clear pattern of their ultimate intentions ^{THUS FAR} ~~but~~ become visible. It is thought, though, that once the more passive part of the population has become sufficiently cold and desperate, they might yet seek to provoke some concerted action. Riots may occur later this winter. From a military viewpoint no such attempt could possibly succeed. Its purpose, however, would not be victory, but blackmail. ~~end~~ article.