

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Germany. Complete draft.

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In liberated Europe boundaries have ceased to exist. Our armies, at least and all personell accredited to the forces, cross from one country into another, as ones crosses from side side of mainstreet to the other. Moreover, since French is spoken in Eastern Belgium while West of Brussels you'll hear nothing but Dutsch, you may need a map to find out where you are, whether in France, Belgium, or battled Holland.

Once you get ^{to} Germany, however, all is different. You won't cross any frontier either; but no sooner have you entered German territory, than you realize: I am on enemy soil, - not because people are hostile here, ~~hh~~ because there are no flowers any longer for troops our ~~hhhhhhhh~~, and no smiles and no joyful tears. What distinguishes these conquered villages from any liberated spot you know, is their abandoned lifelessness. ~~hhhhhh~~ The population ~~hh~~ has either fled with the withdrawing Wehrmacht, or was evacuated by our ^A own M.G. (military Government) Here and there a hamlet has been taken over by our soldiers; a couple of G.I.'s can be seen in front of a deserted "Gasthof" (Hotel Restaurant), ^{have gotten around to} scrubbing their jeep, while others ~~hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh~~ "hang ~~hh~~ their washing on the Siegfriedline". For, odd as it may seem, all these "inhabited localities", these ^{highways} ~~hhhh~~, orchards and meadows, are ~~ph~~ part of the famed fortifications on which rest the "Fueher's" steadily dwindling hopes.

In this particular sector of the front Siegfried-installations are comparative ly thinly spread. Natural obstacles, such as poor roads, ¹¹ muddy fields and the soft and gluy banks of the River Wurm had been counted on to play their defensive part and an exaggerated confidence had been placed in some 500 concrete pillboxes which solid pocket forts where to stall our advance. Despite its

proven practicability barbed wire had not been used. 350 Miles of fortifications take a lot of wire and it might just be that the Germans are running short of that stuff. As to the Pillboxes they have been christened "C.C.'s" (Concrete Coffins) by our troops and are indeed comparable to so many monstrous man-~~hph~~ traps. Ingeniously camouflaged as houses, barns, garages, or grass-covered hills, the exceedingly hard to find. C.C.'s are ~~hphhphhphhphhphhphh~~. ~~hphhphhphhphhphhphh~~ Without a guide to lead me I would never have made their acquaintance. ~~hphhphhphhphhphh~~ They look impermeable. Even heavy artillery fire hardly scars the thickness of their walls and in their roomy interior, equipped as it is, with every commodity, a dozen soldiers could hold out for weeks. They didn't, though. Unimpressed by the lessons of Singapore and the Maginot Line the Nazis thought of frontal attacks only and failed to ~~hphhphh~~ furnish their strongholds with any backside defenses. Frontwards one lone machine gun ~~pro pillbox~~ forms all the armament there is, while in the back a heavy steel door provides the only exit.

"The trick" said my guide "was to get in back of the thing and somehow to force that door. When nothing else helped, we resorted ~~hph~~ to welding. ~~hphhphh~~ Jerry, unable to ~~interrupt~~ our welders, got a wholesome fright out of the warmth and the hissing noise. Either he'd come out, hands up, or ~~else~~ we'd open the door just a ~~hphhphh~~ bit, to throw a little something or other into his nest."

He laughed merrily, adding that on the whole Jerry had been quite cooperative.

"Take this, for instance: These pillboxes come in clusters of six and seven each ~~all of which~~ ^{and} are connected with each other by telephone. Whenever the bell rings in one, it rings in the others as well. And whatever is said by one party can be heard

Ignorant by all. So, when we'd ~~made~~ *made* number one, we took the liberty of listening in on what the rest of them had to say. Ignorant of our presence, they'd telephone frantically; and we'd learn just how many casualties they'd had and how much food ^{was} left and how much ammunition. Also, they'd tell us, how shocked they were at the sight of our tanks. 'Panzers!' ^{somebody} hhh hhhhhh would cry - '80 of them - coming down the road!' There'd be a little silence. 'How many did you say?' another voice would finally ask - 'eight?'. But his harrassed informant wouldn't even answer."

I inquired whether the Nazis had gone as far in their helpfulness as to talk English to each other and learned that both, an interpreter and a recording machine had been ready in no time at all.

"The records" said my guide "make dramatic listening. I wished I could play them for my kids one of these days."

Despite the failure of the pillboxes the breakthrough was anything but a pushover.

"This" I was told by a high ranking officer "cannot be stated too often. The enemy is still full of fight, although even his crack divisions are not what they used to be. We've captured quite a few live S.S. men who were either one-armed, or one-legged, or otherwise incapacitated. But you don't need your legs to pull a trigger; all it takes, is one arm and the will to fight. And that's what they've got - all of them - that furious determination to go on with the fight no matter how bad the odds. No, - " he said, shaking his head, "let noone tell you that these fellows are through. Whether we like it or not, they are excellent soldiers and still numerous enough to cause a lot of trouble."

Sum
Among the first larger settlements captured by our troops were the twin villages Ubach-Palenberg most of the population of which worked *the main industrial area* ~~in~~ in the neighbouring Carolus Magnus Coal Mine .

It was here that I met my first Nazi Civilians. Let me state in advance that ~~the term "Nazi"~~ the term "Nazi" is being used here advisedly and after careful consideration. After all I've seen and heard during my stay in Germany, the distinction made by wishful thinkers between "Nazis" and "Germans" - is no longer tenable. By ~~Whoever~~ *Whoever* separates - in his writings - the ~~former~~ *former* from the latter, clearly implies that ~~the German nation is~~ *the German nation is* in reality ~~divided~~ *divided*, that it consists of bad Germans on the one hand and good Germans on the other. And while the simple concepts of "good" and "bad" ~~will never quite apply to~~ *will never quite apply to* anything as complex and multicaeted as a nation, it must be stated that, if Nazism be bad, the ~~average~~ *average* German is far from good; for the average Germany is not antinazi.

The first German area that fell into our hands is inhabited by people ~~who, for social and religious and geographical~~ *who, for social and religious and geographical* might have been expected to loathe the regime. ~~Living near the boundaries of both Belgium and Holland, the catholic minders~~ *Living near the boundaries of both Belgium and Holland, the catholic minders* make up a large part of the population in the Aachen district ~~who~~ *who* must have witnessed more nazi crimes and suffered more Nazi insults than most of their compatriots in Berlin, Frankfurt, or Hamburg. ~~if anywhere,~~ *if anywhere,* a German resistance movement ~~might have been called for.~~ *might have been called for.* ~~In cooperation~~ *In cooperation* the Dutsch and Belgian underground ~~it might have~~ *it might have* ~~been~~ *been* ~~had its chances.~~ *had its chances.*

very considerably with the

importance

There are two possible explanations for the German failure to organize resistance. A third one, frequently quoted by Germany's defenders, carries little conviction. The contention that in the face of the Gestapo resistance is virtually impossible, is invalidated by the existence of underground movements all over Europe found cause to Surely the Gestapo who in Paris alone executed 75 000 french men and women couldn't be more frightening at home than they are abroad.

What Fear, then, is no explanation. What about patriotism? To sabotage Hitler as a German patriot means sabotaging the German war effort, and you might be disinclined to do so. Or - to sum it up - while in the occupied countries patriotism and resistance are identical, in Germany they may be mutually exclusive. Even this interpretation however, though more persuasive than the fear-motive is not quite satisfactory. For if, during a war, patriotism prevent a nation from sabotaging its government, no such consideration exists in times of peace. After having made him their chosen leader the Germans had six years and a half to rid themselves of the unspeakable, or, at least to indicate to the world their militant dissatisfaction with this particular government. They did nothing of the kind.

To argue that that resistance would have been impossible even then means to ascribe superhuman powers to Herr Hitler and his gang, who never faced large scale sabotage on the part of any organized groups of Germans. Had it been otherwise and had not the German nation as a whole followed their Fuehrer from crime to crime Nazism hardly have survived.

According to Ordinance

number one

A. H. S. Law declares

~~lawfully to be~~

~~to be~~ ~~to be~~ ~~to be~~

a Capital offense and

as a result of which, according

to Ordinance number one

Article one is

principally by death

or any other penalty

as a H. S. Court may

impose.

He didn't move.

"What are you doing here?"

No hahahaha reply.

I was about to pass, when a voice from somewhere ~~behind~~ behind the stove answered my question.

"He's drying our laundry" said the voice ; "I've been up in the daylight to wash it. It was very dirty and now it is all wet."

~~It sounded~~ theatrical and
al- It sounded bbbbbb spooky.
Bbbb and vaguely
~~bbbbbb~~ reproachful.

"Any more people back there?" I asked, hññññññ

Many ~~small children~~ Families, Children .
~~Many~~ small children . I understand they got candles back there."

Without
~~HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH~~ having seen the owner of the voice I walked
on. again

on. again
by narrowing after a few yards
Where the corridor widened and formed something like
the
a room ~~like~~ families had installed themselves. In the light of two
candles I counted three children, four women and one elderly man.

#Bnglvhsgvwiidfgfhtygruhgjhphghghhvhayehgtkengfiysdouseetc

They were eating. Turning towards vegetable soup on of the women I inquired whether the food - ~~hnhnhnhnh~~ ~~hnhnhnh~~ with ~~hnh~~ G^{ies} ~~hnh~~ potatoes and meat - had come from the community kitchen. "Yes" she said; "this too" she pointed at a loaf of very black bread "was baked up there."

The bread was heavy. ~~hahhghhhhh~~ incredibly ~~hahh~~

"You got better bread," said the women.

I nodded. *agreed*

"~~Heinrich Heine~~ Better flower too."

his report

also of may

were

hühner

инера

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Why

Howdy

"By ~~advertising~~ assisting us in ~~advertising~~ picking the right men. We are gradually building up something like a local German Government. Headed by the Oberbuergermeister the ~~German~~ city administration

employs at present 57 female and 150 male German civilians, including 58 auxiliary policemen."

It has been known
"And the ~~hhhhh~~ Oberbuergermeister - what's his name - was he recommended by the church?" *the recommended him?*

There was a short pause.

"Suffice it to say" the governor then continued that he's been thoroughly screened by CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) and that they've found nothing against him. His name is Franz Openhoff and he's a catholic lawyer.."

never "Where is the Archbishop?" I ~~hhhhh~~ asked he hadn't ~~been~~ *ever*, ~~hhhhh~~ mentioned, among those Catholic leaders who had taken a militant stand against the un- and anti-christian machinations of the Nazis Regime.

The church, I was told, was unpolitical and the Arch Bishop was ~~hhhhh~~ not in Aachen, but in safety.

Changing the subject I inquired how many people were living here now and what ~~hhhhh~~ the food and health situation *were* was like.

"Some six thousand" I learned "have been *alleged* permitted to come back. *now* by the Oberbuergermeister. The first to be repatriated were doctors *indispensible* ~~hhhhh~~ engineers technicians and other specialists. ~~hhhhh~~

~~hhhhh~~ Later on, when some of the damage *may* has been repaired - ~~and~~ we ~~will~~ be able to take care of some 40 000. *charity 4th*

The food situation is good and the health situation excellent. We've found food reserves ~~hhhhh~~ sufficient for 30 days; besides people seem to *quite a lot of hoarding* have been hoarding quite a bit. *932-33-97* *Saved for the, in the last* ~~hhhhh~~ Whoever wants to come back - and they all do - claims to be *admirably* supplied."

My question as to whether political considerations played any part in the issuing of return-permits

My question as to whether political considerations played any part in the issuing of return-permits was answered in the negative.

These people were Nazis, - in varying degrees almost all of them were - Instead of being choosy, we'd better be watchful. As to himself, the governor was a professional cop and detective who knew how to keep his eyes open. He didn't think that serious trouble was to be expected.

Out in the wide vestibule of the former museum file of Germans waited to be "screened" by CIC. On an average the interviews lasted 3 minutes each. In a neighbouring room permits were being issued. Whoever had been found acceptable by CIC rejected by the Lieutenant in charge - and during the quarter of an hour I spent there, nobody had been given his paper, - was provided that his street was not "off limits" for all civilians, allied and nazi alike. Two Sergeants with a map settled this question.

I talked to many of the Germans - here and in the streets of Aachen and in the nearby refugee camp of Brend 2200 Aacheners are waiting to be chosen by the Herr Oberbuergermeister. And while their reactions varied, - while some were friendly, some suspicious, some docile and some arrogant, I haven't found a single one who calimed either to have been engaged at any time in antinazi acitivities, or even to dislike the regime for any but the

System

Although this general

lack of interest in Herr Hitler's adversaries

was in itself indicative of political dullness I inquired repeatedly as to whether my informants had any plans regarding a new and better German government. What sort of regime did they visualize? Was there any man or group of men whom they'd favour

and whom they knew to be available? Most of them didn't know.

^{few} Some mumbled "Democracy" without however defining just

what to their minds "German Democracy" meant; and

as to the democrats who were supposed to take over

nobody had ever heard of them. In the process of their "nazification"

the Germans, far from becoming "politicised" seem to have forgotten

how to think politically.

If there are some who remember, we may find them in the concentration camps.

Their political apathy is not the only feature which makes any conversation with these people

so perplexing an affair. What I found even more

disconcerting is their utter failure to appreciate the

And as to coming man, - the
the democratic leader, he was
so far up! the only man
I heard mentioned a number of
of times 1108 that of Dr. H. B. the

C. H. B. the
and the

What make any conversation with those Nazis so ~~fatiguing~~ and
utter
perplexing an affair, is their ~~complete~~ failure to grasp the moral
a
depravity, the demented criminality of ~~this~~ venture ~~and~~
only
which now, that it is failing, they begin to bewail. That in its
foul
most triumphant hours Nazism was as ~~bad~~, as humanly unacceptable as
today
it is ~~bad~~ and that by having chosen, ~~and~~ maintained and obeyed this
shares the responsibility of its leaders
system the ~~entire~~ German nation ~~made~~ doesn't seem to
guiltless
occur to them. They feel ~~innocent~~ and unlucky.

to whom
One of the more intelligent Aacheners I listened to
was an assistant to the refugee camp leader at Brend. In his late
thirties ^{respectable} this lively and pleasant-mannered young man held an ~~un~~ ^{un} ~~pleasant~~ ^{pleasant}
position as manager of a large slaughterhouse (?) when his city fell
and he took it upon himself to look after his fellow
refugees.

[illegible]

instead of appreciating how relatively ~~happily~~ kept launching senseless

one complaint after the other.

observe imagination

"These people" he'd ~~hah~~ "have no ~~hah~~. Otherwise they'd picture how much worse they might have fared."

After having listened for a while to his fluent life presentation of ~~hah~~ in Camp Brend I led the conversation first towards life in general, then towards German life under Hitler.

What, I inquired, was the Secretary's opinion of so-called National Socialism?

been

He said that he'd never ~~hah~~ quite sold on Herr Hitler whose economic wisdom he'd found reason to doubt. ~~hah~~ It was true that ~~hah~~ the elating events of 1939 and 40 had caused him ~~hah~~ ^{rejoice} ~~hah~~ ^{everything} somehow to modify his opinion. But even then, when ~~hah~~ looked ~~hah~~ rosy there had always been ~~hah~~ the danger of American intervention. ~~hah~~ ^{imb} ~~hah~~ By the sheer weight of its production the U.S. could crush Germany.

"And that fool!" he cried, losing for the first time his dignified composure, "that idiot thought nothing of it!"

~~hah~~ ^{final} ~~hah~~ ^{indignant}

There it was again, this rejection ~~hah~~ of Germany's leading criminal, not because he was a criminal, but because he was a failure. For all his urbanity and reasonableness this no conception whatever of obliging young men had ~~hah~~ the moral abyss into which his country had thrown itself, ~~hah~~ and no feeling for the sufferings it inflicted on the world.

Germany is large and the territory thus far occupied comparatively
in size. ^{Enough}
As a test case, however, the ^{disorderly} city of Aachen
is as good as any. If there be anything about ^{its people} ~~which~~
cannot be considered typical of all Germans it is their
catholicism as well as their relative
familiarity with other nations, three of whom - the Belgian,
the Dutch and the French are their immediate neighbours.
Both these ^{festures} ~~festures~~
are alien to Nazism and might have alienated ~~from~~ the regime.
Aachen ^{Thus if} even
remained loyal to the bitter end,
other cities
can hardly be expected to behave otherwise. ^{it} ~~it~~ be reasonably hoped that the two main
Nor can the conclusions at which one arrives there will prove
1
invalid anywhere else. They are:

We have to be reasonable to
hope that the two main
churchmen and people are
bound to arrive the full
more invalid anywhere else
in the Reich. There are

~~These, then, are the conclusions, at which, whether~~
~~he likes it or not~~ , the student of occupied Germany is ~~bound~~ ~~bound~~ to
 arrive:

1.) Although conditions in Germany ~~were~~ ^{are} hardly more forbidding than they were in the rest of Europe the Germans failed to organize any kind of resistance worth that name. While despite the gestapo underground movements existed everywhere else on the continent The number of ~~German~~ Germans who individually fought ~~had~~ ^{and} endangered and sacrificed themselves for the cause of reason and decency ~~was~~ ^{is} too small as to carry any decisive weight.

2.) The general collapse which cannot but follow Germany's military defeat is apt to call itself a "revolution" and may actually show many of the earmarks of a genuine ~~hbbbhth~~ rising.

admitting their
2.) Far from ~~blaming the collective guilt~~ collective guilt
the Germans, *as the victors of war* indulge in national self-pity. That, having failed,
deserve whatever ~~that~~ fate may be in store for them,
their Fuehrer and his henchmen ~~they are willing to~~ they are willing to
in any way
concede. But ~~they, the people,~~ they, the people, must not be held responsible
Germany's ~~actions.~~ actions. Since, - *for the time being* -
for ~~their conscience is clear,~~ ~~their conscience is clear,~~ Their conscience is clear,
they'll *discrimination* against them
~~deem any thought of retribution a gross injustice~~ deem any thought of retribution a gross injustice

And since the non German world will hardly refrain
differentiating between country and its
from the aggressor the victims
their righteous indignation will be great.

Complete
draft

Stewart
Toronto