

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Germans.

Mann, Erika

Nürnberg

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FROM MANN IMT PRESS CAMP NURNBERG
TO CAPTAIN RITCHIE THIRD ARMY PRESS CAMP BAD TOELZ
DPFV

Dear occupation soldier stop para are you one of those who think that
today's Germans are a nation like any other semicolon that comma what with
the Gestapo and its terror comma they could never have attempted to
get rid of their leaders now on trial at Nurnberg semicolon that comma
while they were unaware of what was going on at Auschwitz and Buchenwalde
comma they couldn't have done anything about it comma even if they had
known semicolon that the house of your Fraeulein friend reminds you of
home semicolon and that no people^{COMMA} as clean comma industrious and fun
hyphen^{COMMA} loving as the Germans could comma as a whole comma be co hyphen
responsible of Hitler^e and his crimes questionmark para

Or are you one of those who think that all Germans are evil
semicolon that they lie whenever they open their mouths semicolon that
they appear clean comma industrious and fun hyphen loving just to fool
you semicolon that the females among them smile comma if they do comma
not at you but at your PX rations only semicolon and that comma on the
whole comma the only good German is a dead German questionmark para

If you belong to either class of thinkers you don't know
the people whose country you occupy and among whom you live stop The
truth about the Germans lies dash as is the habit of truth dash in the
middle stop your average German combines many likable and harmless with
many revolting and dangerous qualities stop So dash you may say dash
does the average human being stop But nations like individuals are
shaped by background comma education and experience stop And it so
happens that the background comma education and experience that hhhph
shaped the German character of today are completely incomparable stop
para Every German you do business with dash your cook comma your
driver comma your secretary comma or the man on the street who waits
for your cigaret butt to be thrown away dash has gone through twelve
years of Nazism stop Never mind whether he was an active Nazi or
personally committed any heinous crimes colon With the arrival of

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Hitler and his acceptance by the nation as its leader comma something new has been^z added to old Kraut stop This novel something did not by any means swallow all or even any of the qualities formerly recognized as typical of the Germans stop If comma as a nation comma they were ^{EFFICIENT} ~~efficient~~ comma thorough comma or musical comma they still are stop Yet whatever set of peculiarities they may have poss^zessed has been augmented by the sinister attributes of Nazism stop And while these attributes dash the master race complex comma the irrational contempt for anything non^{HYPHON} German comma the conviction that might is right comma the belief in Germanys mission to conquer and enslave the world and other pathological notions dash were anything but repulsive to them bracket or else Germany would not have fallen for der Fuehrer unbracket comma they failed dash seemingly at least dash to harmonize with many a feature contained in the original set stop The result was dash and is dash puzzling to the non^{HYPHON} German observer stop Take this comma for instance colon para Some time ago I attended a concert stop The ~~hahhah~~ performers comma a male quire of twenty comma sang beautifully stop There was something very moving about the sweet clear falsetto of the boy among them and about the earnestness and devotion shown by the entire group stop These men were Germans semicolon they were Nazis semicolon they were ~~captured~~ ^{HIMMLERS} members of ~~Himmlers~~ ^{FROM A NEARBY PRISON CAMP} S.S. stop Nor was their offering a fruit of captivity stop They had always loved to chant stop Their ^d days beating comma torturing and exterminating done comma they had often gathered to turn songsters. Murder and music comma they were equally fond of both stop para Or take the P.W. ^{dash} ~~had~~ a First Lieutenant dash whose diary I have seen colon para The fellow in question who comma according to his writings comma was well educated comma devoted ^{to} his parents comma a sentimental rather than a brutal type comma made these two entries into his diary dash made them comma mind you comma on two opposite pages and under the same date colon One was a poem by

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Goethe which he knew by heart and did not wish to forget stop The
other read as follows colon quote Its an odd thing semicolon the first
Russian woman I shot in the back gave me the shivers stop By now I
dont feel right unless I shoot ten a day stop Every time I pull the
trigger a warm and pleasant feeling creeps up my spine stop unquote para
I dont know what has become of the Lieutenant stop Perhaps he has gone
home stop Right now he may be caressing his mother or waiting comma
patiently comma for your cigaret butt to be thrown away stop If you
come across him comma just remember that quote warm and pleasant feeling
unquote semicolon but for the fact that he has grown fond of shooting
other people's mothers in the back comma he is a nice enough guy stop
para hhh Also dash in case you ask him or any German of either sex
comma how they comma an intelligent and cultured nation comma could
ever have chosen and sustained so criminal and barbarous a regime dash
dont expect them to lie to you stop Just remember that comma having chosen
and sustained it comma they are bound to lie to themselves stop
Self hyphon defense and self hyphon deception are one in todays Germany
stop para As for your question comma I have put it to hundreds of hhhhh
Germans stop Here is what they answered dash virtually all of them comma
if in varying ways colon para First Quote When we sent for Hitler unquote
comma they say comma quote we believed in his promises but had no hhhhhhh
conception of his actual plans stop unquote bracket Statement untrue
colon quote mein Kampf unquote comma published in the early twenties
comma contained the whole Nazi program the evilness of which was evident
in every Nazi word uttered since stop unbracket para Second quote
When we finally realized unquote comma they add comma quote what was
going on comma the terror was such comma that resistance would have been
senseless stop unquote bracket Statement untrue colon admittedly the
Gestapo acted more ruthlessly in the occupied countries than it did at
home hhh stop yet resistance movements sprang up all over Europe stop

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In Germany ^{DASH} according to official estimates [/]scarcely one percent
~~was~~ engaged in any anti nazi activities whatever stop unbracket para
Third quote When unquote comma they continue comma quote owing to allied
bombings comma the disruption of all communications and the general
confusion created by the approach of defeat comma the Nazi machinery of
terror was thrown out of gear comma we comma too comma were demoralized
comma paralyzed and unable to function stop unquote Bracket statement
untrue colon until the very last a great many Germans quote functioned
unquote perfectly stop Had they turned around and dash even at the
eleventh hour dash overthrown their leaders comma Germany today would be
a better place to live in stop just think of Italy stop unbracket para
Fourth quote When unquote comma they conclude comma quote you comma the
Americans comma arrived comma we welcomed you as liberators stop But hhhh
Now comma that you have made so many mistakes comma we are quite disillusioned
and comma perhaps comma less eager to cooperate than we would have
been otherwise stop unquote Bracket Statement untrue colon Those who had
to fight their way into Germany wont forget that quote welcome unquote
semicolon late hyphon comers recall General Eisenhowers pre hyphon V.E.
Day proclamation to the German people stop Said quote Ike unquote colon
quote we come as conquerors stop unquote How comma then comma could any
German have expected the Americans to act like liberators questionmark
And ^{comma} regarding those quote mistakes unquote colon nothing human is perfect
stop suppose comma however comma the U.S. Army constituted the one
exception to the rule and M.G. had not made a single mistake comma does
anybody hhhhhh think the Germans would like their defeat and appreciate
~~agreement~~ the occupation questionmark I for one do not stop unbracket
para Yours sincerely Erika Mann end article

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Hope piece satisfactory if possible please dont cut stop shall forward
report on September interview with Haushofer but repeat have not seen
him since stop misunderstanding apparently due to our verbal ~~happht~~
report ~~nengnngng~~ concerning recent visit to Dr. Manfred Curry
American doctor married to former Mrs Thyssen and neighbour of Haushofer
stop Haushofers name was mentioned in Currys house and hence also in
report stop kindest regards

German

(III. Army Mag
Hards 20th)