

Visited the kitchens. The entire shelter was ventilated with an air-conditioning system and must have been quite habitable.

Huss states that the Russians moved Hitler's remains to Moscow. Hitler's dentist, taken to Moscow, identified his dental work. Hitler's adjutant also went to Moscow to testify. Huss says Hitler is unmistakably dead but the Russians, in their usual manner, wish to envelop his demise in mystery; the Russians will surreptitiously release a news story that Hitler has been found in Spain . . . another story that he has been discovered in Argentina, then one that he is in Manchuria, Japan, etc. This causes great embarrassment, as State Departments write notes of inquiry to countries mentioned and this engenders bad feelings among various nations. Merely another form of Russian chicanery.

We picked up a few things in the Hitler air-raid shelter—just like any G.I. souvenir collector—things that had no intrinsic value; letter-heads, combs, keys, etc.

Russians in Berlin

Leaving Hitler's fatal shelter, we motored throughout the city. Everywhere we saw complete destruction. The beautiful horses are shot from the Brandenburg Gate . . . the trees of the Tiergarten have no leaves, the branches destroyed by shellfire. I saw 50 corpses exhumed in the Tiergarten almost under the Brandenburg Gate.

There is a black market going in the Tiergarten—from 6,000 to 10,000 people, mostly Russian soldiers, buy watches or anything that one has to sell as I explained in my remarks about Russian-printed Occupation marks. One of our party sold a \$20 wrist watch for \$460. He subsequently cashed the \$460 in Russian Occupation marks into American funds. Watched women selling calico—and Russians buying everything.

I was wearing an expensive wrist watch, worth about \$500.

The Russians offered me the equivalent of \$200. They did not like it as well as they did a dollar Mickey Mouse watch because my watch did not tick loudly.

Someone tells a story—amusing though possibly untrue: One of our soldiers sold an alarm clock to a Russian soldier for \$500. Ivan purchased the clock because it ticked loudly. After the exchange he strapped the clock around his neck and immediately the alarm went off. In great fright the Russian threw it into the street and shot it, thinking it was a time bomb.

After inspecting the black market, we motored about the town, driving up and down the Kurfurstendam. The beautiful tower of the Wilhelm Church is destroyed; about the only thing that remains standing on this street is the infamous Femina Night Club, which is still doing business (opens at 4 p.m. daily), along with the Am Zoo Hotel where the British have press headquarters. Leipziger Strasse is completely gone—there was terrific street fighting here. The street on which all the embassies were located—fronting the Tiergarten—is entirely demolished. The only building standing is that of the Japanese Embassy, constructed of Italian pink stone.

I walked down the Unter den Linden, the famous Fifth Avenue of Berlin. The beautiful State Library, the Kaiser's old palace, the Adlon Hotel, the ever-famous Dom Church, the beautiful State University, and the historic monuments are in utter ruins. All the beautiful churches of all denominations are wrecked beyond redemption. I saw at least 30 to 75 unexploded dud shells imbedded in the street. One has to pick his way very carefully, as portions of the city are still heavily mined.

Strange as it may seem, one of the few untouched buildings in Berlin is Radio Berlin—we examined the flak towers that caused the Allied bombers so much damage. Everywhere one sees huge placards, "Hitler and tyrants like him come and go yet the German people go on forever." They were signed—"Stalin." There are huge pictures of Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill and then of Truman, on the wide parkway from the Victory Arch to the

Olympic Stadium. On top of the Victory Arch flies the French tri-color put up by the French July 14th last. The Reichstag and the Kroll Opera House are completely demolished.

You get a sickly feeling of nausea from the stench of body decomposition and the devastating wreckage all about. You see old women on the street faint from malnutrition. You never see a smile on the face of a Berliner.

Later we motored to Potsdam. Here too is entire destruction. Kaiser Wilhelm's palace is demolished. When the Russian guard standing on duty at Sans Souci, the palace built by Frederick the the Great, refused us admittance, we tossed him some cigarettes and continued unmolested into the palace. It is undamaged. In the courtyard we saw huge trucks—the Russians were removing the contents of Sans Souci. Everywhere you hear the Russians have looted Germany as no nation has ever been looted before.

Terrible Conditions in Russian-held Territory

It is difficult to find anyone who knows exactly what is going on to the east of Berlin as this region is in the hands of the Russians and travel is positively forbidden to the Allies. I pause in the diary to include some authoritative reports which came to me from Count von Preysing, Roman Catholic Bishop of Berlin. I learned the following:

The situation between the Elbe and Oder rivers is intense. There are about 8,000,000 persons in the woods and on the roads without any supplies—no food, medical care, etc.

Great numbers of women are infected with gonorrhoea as the result of rape. Hundreds die of dysentery and typhoid fever. From one Silesian refugee group of 2400 persons, more than 1000 died. In the forests around Berlin dozens of corpses are hanging from trees. More than an entire generation of Germans have become prisoners of war in the hands of the Russians.