



**F**RANK L. HOWLEY came to Berlin on July 1, 1945, leading an American Military Government detachment of some 300 officers and men. Since that date, as U.S. Commandant and Director of Military Government, he has worked in close, continuous contact with the top officials of three other nations, seeking together to administer and revive the battered former capital of Germany.

This four-power city, where a second World War ended and a third *could* have begun, has for four years been a crucial area of clash for the opposing ideologies of West and East. And much of the success of America's stand in Berlin can be credited to the energy, the leadership, and the decisiveness of Brig. Gen. Howley.

The Berlin assignment was, and has remained one without precedent in history. An international Kommandatura, at which unanimity was the rule, administered the city. A degree of autonomy was retained, however, by each of the four Commandants for intra-sectoral problems.

The city was physically shattered, having been the target for 75,000 tons of bombs during the war, and the scene of vicious, no-quarter street fighting during the closing days of the Nazi regime. Its population was undernourished, epidemic-ridden, and demoralized. A twelve-year tradition of National Socialism had to be deracinated and in its place planted new spirit which would permit a democratic Germany once again to join the family of nations.

To the monumental job of U.S. Commandant, Howley, now 46, brought a broad background of leadership and practical experience. He was educated at New York University and at the Sorbonne in Paris. During the depression years he built a Philadelphia advertising agency into a nationally-known business.

He entered the Officers Reserve Corps in 1932 and eight years later was called to active duty. His first assignment was as Captain and Commanding Officer of an Air Corps ground school. In 1941, he became Operations Officer of the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas.

With the Third Cavalry Regiment at Camp Gordon, Georgia, he was assigned Executive Officer and promoted to Lieut. Col. A maneuvering accident forced his transfer to Civil Affairs.

In 1943, in England, he was given command of the British-U.S. Civil Affairs Detachment, A1-A1.

During the invasion of Normandy, the detachment accompanied combat troops across Omaha Beach. While the Ninth Division pushed the Germans out of Cherbourg and strong fighting was still in progress in the city, Colonel Howley's group re-organized the local government and resuscitated the stunned city administration.

The Cherbourg Civil Affairs operation was subsequently described by Allied observers as "efficient beyond all expectations".

His next assignment was in Paris, where he headed a combined British-U.S.-French detachment of 136 officers and 300 enlisted men, and entered the French capital with the first combat troops.

In Berlin, Brig. Gen. Howley has conferred more than 2,000 hours with the Russians, British, and French.

The retiring U.S. Commandant will not be soon forgotten in Berlin, where, with a team of top-flight specialists, he symbolized for four years America's stand against Soviet pressure, threats, and siege.

Behind him in Berlin, Brig. Gen. Howley leaves the extraordinary appreciation and gratitude of its German population, whom he has been instrumental in guiding towards the ideals of a truly democratic and responsible society.

