ANNIVERSARIES PERMIT one to pause and to reflect upon the efforts made by men and women to bring about the events now commemorated and, as history is the only guide for the shaping of the future, to evaluate that which has been done and that which has transpired since the date of the event. Then, when we have paid our tribute to the past and evaluated the progress since made, we can recommit ourselves to the task that lies ahead.

The events leading up to the creation of the government of the state of Hesse were not mere accidents. Each step had been well planned and executed by men experienced in their tasks and imbued with the spirit of bringing to war-torn Germany the blessings of a free and democratic way of life.

The events which took place on Oct. 16, 1945, were not the result of an accident or a series of accidents. They were brought about by the officers and men of the Military Government detachment under my command. We were all the products of the system of training given to us in preparation for the carrying out of the plans of the United States for the occupation of Germany.

It was the organization under my command, with a background of experience in civil affairs in France and Military Government in the French Zone, that created the first postwar regional government for Germany. This first civil govern-

ment, inaugurated at Neustadt in the Palatinate on May 18, 1945, comprised the Saar, Trier, Koblenz, Hesse west of the Rhine and the Palatinate.

On July 10 of the same year, we turned this first civil government over to the French occupation authorities. The French retained in office the German officials that we had selected. This was no accident, for these officials had been chosen only after a careful screening of more than 200 candidates for the various governmental positions.

Following the turnover to the French, on July 16, 1945, we moved from Neustadt across the Rhine into Wiesbaden, where, just one month later, we installed the first president of the Administrative District (Regierungsbezirk) of Wiesbaden.

Development upon development brought us to that memorable day in October 1945 when the government for the state then known as Greater Hesse was established and the minister president and his cabinet were installed in office. A little more than a year later, the people of Hesse, in a free and popular election, ratified a constitution and under its provisions chose their own governmental representatives.

FOUR YEARS have passed since those first hectic days when Military Government commenced the task of bringing order out of the chaos created by and immediately following a total war. Four years have passed since Military Government worked day and night to screen potential candidates for appointive offices. During those years we, being so close to the job, have hardly paused to evaluate results.

Let us then look back for a few moments in an effort to see just how far the German people have gone in the intervening time, down the highway of reconstruction, a journey during which their guide was Military Government.

When we first entered Germany, the country was in a shambles. Roads were blocked with the ruins and rubble of war. Sanitation was nil, and an epidemic was about to run rampant. Hunger was omnipresent, and the people were in a state of shock. Fear was everywhere, and only a few optimists were willing to look to anything but a future of privation and subjugation.

At random, I have picked a few headlines typical of the period from a collection of newspaper clippings of those early days:

"All Civilian Autos Pooled in Wiesbaden District for Use Only on Essential Trips."

"Ring of Nazis Broken Up in Wiesbaden."

"Border Police Unit Formed to Prevent Illegal Crossings."

"Guards to Halt Food Seekers at Zone's Edge."

"Housing Shortage Critical."


"German Towns' Economic Ruin Held Shocking."

"Newman Asks Hesse to Grow Own Food."

"Next Four Months Termed Extremely Critical for Hesse."

"US Food Aid on Way."

Those were the headlines of the day. They truthfully reflect the tenor of the times. Compare them with your news of today, and you can
judge for yourselves the progress that has been made.

OUR TASK in Germany today is basically the same as it was when we first came into this country. The manner of performing that task has changed. The degree of expressing authority has changed. The basic mission, however, remains the same and is inextricably woven into the whole pattern of what the Government of the United States is doing for all of western Europe.

The so-called German problem cannot be separated from the broader problem of assuring security and peace for the free nations of the world. No attempt at solving the problems of Germany can be deemed adequate unless the solution recognizes the relationship of Germany to the other countries of free western Europe.

The desire to aid all the free people of Europe has been manifested many times, and our efforts to help them help themselves toward reconstruction and recovery have been made most clear. Apparently then, it is the ultimate objective of the United States that the German people be integrated into a new common unity of the free people of Europe, and to share, in due course, as equals in the security and the obligations of this new structure.

It has been our aim to teach and encourage that way of life called democracy, not by decree or by order, but by example. We have made great strides in that direction. Let me cite one outstanding example.

DURING THE EARLY part of the year, the state legislature brought into existence a new school system so that all children in Hesse will hereafter be given equal opportunity to obtain an education. Military Government could have decreed this type of legislation early in the occupation. Instead, we chose to inculcate the Hessian educators, as well as the Hessian people, with a feeling for necessary reform, a feeling within themselves would create a desire to give the Hessian children a greater equality of educational opportunity.

I am happy to say that the democratically thinking educators of Hesse were the first in Germany to recommend this school reform — another first for Hesse on its road to progress in freedom and democracy.

When I speak of democracy, I do not mean Swiss democracy, British democracy, Danish democracy, or American democracy. I mean that broad doctrine, that philosophy of social and political thinking, whatever its form, that recognizes the dignity of man, his inherent rights as such and the principle of a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

DEMOCRACY is not a creed; neither is it a formula. I would rather consider it as a way of life, wherein those living it believe that extraordinary accomplishments can come from ordinary individuals.

Democracy fosters a form of government where the people are the governors, and their freely elected officials serve them. Laws emanate from the people, and reflect their desires. Any other form of government is not democracy.

In a totalitarian regime, a minute hierarchy rules, and the people serve.

A democratic state makes no differentiation between men of different religions, different political opinions, or different backgrounds; all have the equality of opportunity and are equal in the eyes of the law.

In a totalitarian regime there is but one accepted political opinion, one accepted religion, if any, and one accepted background for the behavior of its people. Opportunity and justice become a farce, and, for liberty and justice, there are substituted tyranny and fear.

WE IN OUR MISSION over here hope to instill within the Germans that love of liberty and freedom that we, as Americans, take for granted. We wish to help the people of Germany think for themselves, express themselves, and lead themselves. For without freedom of expression, there can be no freedom and no truth.

We realize that the form and pace of this development of democracy, of freedom of expression, and security are mainly matters that must be determined by the Germans themselves. We also recognize that the sound integration of Germans into the European family of peaceful nations depends, in large measure, upon the belief in collective security and well-being which will come from a joint endeavor, willingly made, on the part of all free men.

Germany’s entrance into this family can only be insured if there can be set into motion in Germany those forces which will create and maintain a governmental system dedicated to the preservation of basic human freedoms through democratic procedures.

The constructive forces can derive their strength only from the re-
newed vitality of the democratic elements of Germany. This implies a concept of government by the people, where there is no room for the domineering, arrogant public official or a totalitarian hierarchy, be it right or be it left. The concept itself is based on the understanding of common benefits to be derived from cooperative effort.

Our goal, then, is the same as it was four years ago. We must continue to help the Germans in making those indispensable adjustments and to find a way towards the reorganization of their national life on a democratic basis. We must help them make their full contribution to world progress.

It is important, however, to remember that only the Germans themselves can make these adjustments, as a product of their own will and their own spirit. All we can do is lay the foundation, provide the framework, and create the atmosphere in which they may be made.

(Continued from page 29)

**Bavaria’s Progress**

along democratic lines, as attested by their vigorous participation in community affairs. They have moved a long way since the years they were trampled by dictatorial suppressors.

With assumption of greater responsibility in state and federal affairs, their own task is magnified. The reshaping of their own future is more and more being placed in their hands. But I am confident that Bavarians will rise to the occasion—will meet the challenge by redoubling their efforts toward betterment of their state and country; that they will zealously guard against the encroachment by would-be ruling minorities whose own survival is possible only through a controlled state.

Democracy’s best safeguard is freedom of action, the right to live in a free society; the right to make a decent living and with the resultant wages, to buy the things man needs for his peace and happiness. The Bavarian is one of the most industrious workers. He’s one of the hardest workers I’ve ever seen. He will work for right and justice. And I’m certain he will prove to the world that America’s faith in him was well-founded.

---

**FIVE ALLIED NATIONS PARADE ARMS**

More than 20,000 troops were inspected by British War Secretary Emmanuel Shinwell during British Army of the Rhine exercises at Sennelager in which US, French, Belgian and Norwegian units also participated. Above, RAF Hastings transports fly over 14th US Armored Cavalry tanks; (top right) self-propelled anti-tank guns of British 10th Anti-Tank Regiment salute; (right) Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion The Black Watch and 1st Battalion The Royal Scots Fusiliers. (BAOR photos)