

his Reich for a thousand years by brute force and blood . . . Then came the end, the final judgment. . . . ”

Occasionally a stray traveler who gets through the lines from a Russian-held region says that the Russians remove everything humanly possible from buildings, even down to the wash bowls, the bath-tubs, doorknobs, toilets, etc. They strip the factories completely. After having stripped the factories they detonate, and say it is a casualty of war.

One hears explosions continually in the outskirts of Berlin. You are told that these explosions are the Russians demolishing factories. One authority reports the Russians stripped a large electric bulb manufacturing plant outside of Berlin of all of its inventory and machinery, then demolished the factories. The city has no electric light bulbs at present.

Berlin is truly a “dead city.” Clammy atmosphere and stench of death exist everywhere. Words cannot describe the horrid and pitiful existence of its people.

More Observations in Berlin

From Potsdam to Harnack House for dinner, stopping to inspect the Press Camp at Zehlendorf. In the camp is an impressive British poster addressed to troops called in Africa “The Desert Rats.” The poster read: “If You Do Not Wish To Be A Desert Rat, Drink The Water In Berlin And Become A Sewer Rat.”

The Olympic Stadium has been wrecked. In the last days the Nazis tried to take off in their airplanes from the wide boulevard Hitler built from the Brandenburg Gate to the Stadium.

Passing a garden close to the Press Camp, we were told that what was grown there last week had already been harvested and that the ground today is planted as a truck garden. The Germans, if possible, do not allow an inch of land to remain idle over night. The Russian officers begin work at 6 p.m.

In contacts with the Russians, American officers are treated with extraordinary civility. There is bowing and saluting, procrastinating and procrastinating till the Americans are worn out and fail to accomplish what they requested.

Saturday, August 11

Met with the generals in the morning, who explained the civil administration of Berlin.

Lunched with Major General Gavin, Commanding General of 82nd Airborne Division. He lives in a beautiful "liberated" house of Berlin. I am told he is the youngest Major General in the Army—36 years of age. A jumping paratrooper, he made 6 jumps during the Bulge of the past winter in Holland and Belgium. His men admire him, as he is a fighting soldier.

Gavin explained the physical conditioning of the Airborne troops—marching the men for 18 hours simulating actual warfare . . . hardships undergone, etc. He showed us a huge sterling silver tureen captured from the Germans. It is a ceremony among the parachute divisions to drink on occasions from a receptacle of this type nick-named "Prop Blast." One who jumps from an airplane feels the blast from the propeller; therefore, the beverage in the punch bowl is said to give one a jolt like the "Prop Blast."

Coal and Food Famine

Visited General Draper, Deputy in Charge of Industry for the Army of Occupation. The General tells us, as does everyone else, the big problem in Germany is coal. Transportation normally is 30% by water on the rivers and canals; now the barges are sunk. The Ruhr is the principal coal producing section, but the Germans can expect no coal from the Ruhr this year. It ordinarily produces 130,000,000 tons, the Saar 50,000,000 tons. The Ruhr formerly had 400,000 miners, 75% of whom were slave laborers. It is now on a 10% production schedule, using prisoners of war.