

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.

The army is giving German civilians who work in the coal mines 2,000 calories of food per day, requiring them to eat at the mines. Even then the men hide a portion of their food to take home to their families; therefore, they are under-nourished and cannot work.

General Draper went on to say that strange as it may seem, 80% of the German prewar production could be achieved in a few months' time with repairs. While the factories look completely destroyed, much machinery is intact. For instance, the Farben plant at Essen looks entirely destroyed and yet when walking through it the other day, his engineers estimated that 80% of the machinery could be made operative shortly.

The railway bridges on the Rhine are all destroyed. The Army needs railroads to move military food. The civilians are not getting food or fuel in the large cities. The German people are now under-rationed at about 1,000 to 1,250 calories a day. The winter will be desperate. Germany must get food from the United States to prevent starvation. Silesia, which formerly exported food into western Germany, is now in the hands of the Russians and no food will come from there.

Germany has a debt of 45,000,000,000 marks. Eighty percent of the money in the banks was invested in Government war bonds. Seventy-five or eighty percent of the production of Germany is outside of the big cities. Only 5% of the factories are working. The Germans are now depositing their money in their own banks.

Visited a U. S. civilian Deputy for Trade and Finance. He was one of the few persons we met in our European travels who could not or would not give us information. (The Army always welcomes you and gives full access to any information requested and at all times volunteers full information and examination of their records.)

Dined a short distance from where we were quartered—the former home of a German industrialist—as usual a splendid “liberated” house set in charming gardens.

In the evening attended the opening of the Press Club and talked to all the representatives of the various newspapers sta-

tioned in Berlin. The handsome Press Club is located in a "liberated" house; the former home of "Strength Through Joy" Dr. Ley.

Still later, we attended a concert in the auditorium of the Harnack House—a conglomeration of state opera and vaudeville conducted in German but given for American officers. The talent was good. At the end of the program, the combined chorus sang with gusto what the Master of Ceremonies called a new composition—"Berlin Will Rise Again." The theme was that again will rise the Potsdamer Platz, the Alexander Platz, the Leipziger Strasse, etc. Many of the American officers left in disgust. Parenthetically speaking, Berlin may rise again but it's going to be a late rising, for they are a beaten nation and fully realize it.

Take-off for Munich

Sunday, August 12

Departed early for Templehof Airfield. Took off for Frankfurt-an-Main, where we arrived at 9:45 a.m. Capt. Mullikin, a former associate, met and motored us from Frankfurt to Bad Nauheim. Lunch at the hotel of Dr. Groudel (famous heart specialist).

The shops were all closed—no merchandise.

Bad Nauheim is a gorgeous spot. This famous watering resort was used as a hospital center for the German air force during the war. Just one bomb hit here—it struck the Kurs House which housed Radio Frankfurt, and destroyed the radio station.

This place is going to be used as the headquarters for the American Army to write the history of the war. You can imagine no lovelier spot to be billeted for such a job.

After lunch we returned to Frankfurt and took off at 4 p.m. Arriving at Munich 6 p.m., we were met at the airfield by an officer who motored us to Bad Weisse—a village in the Bavarian