

I. ROSS - W. ROSS; A-2

No. 3. Sergeants Mess
312 (P) MIL GOV DET
SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN
REGION.

B. A. O. R.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt,

Ross, Jean

Encouraged by your letters to me I offered to write for the local Army paper here, the Kiel Journal, and after the tedium for some weeks of writing variety and vaudeville reviews I have at ^{last} written my first two leaders. These I enclose for you to see.

I owe you a great deal of thanks for writing to me as you have, because it was that which was the deciding factor in my attempt to become some sort of journalist, however obscure the paper. Do you honestly believe that I have any chance at all?

I ... certainly will work if I could
get a little confidence in what
I can do, but I am so
terribly dissatisfied, so far.

I thank you again most
sincerely for your encouragement.

Jean Ross

KIEL JOURNAL

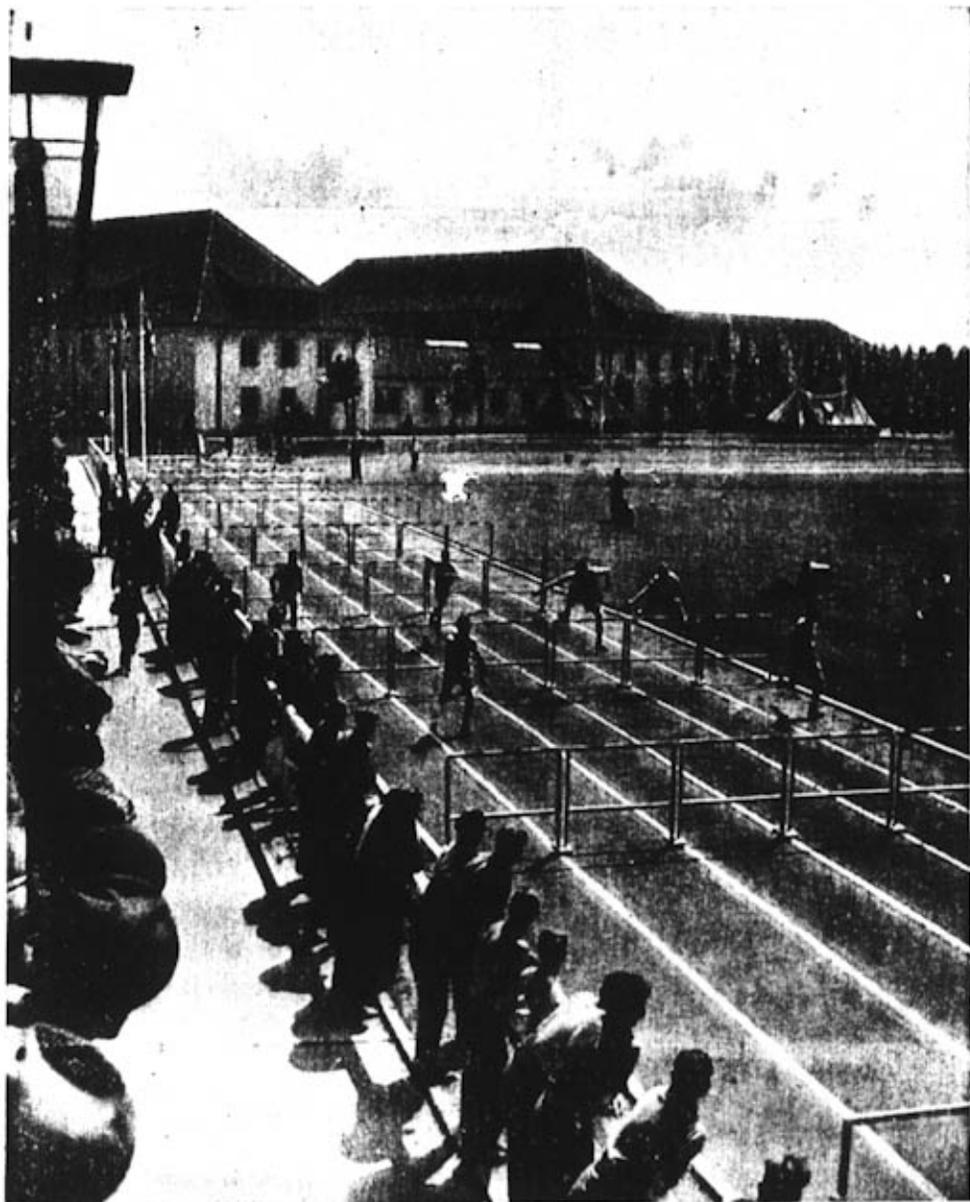
THIS IS AN
A W S
NEWSPAPER

NO 56

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1946

FIFTY PFENNIGS

THE ATHLETES HAVE THEIR DAY



This picture, taken by a JOURNAL photographer, shows a Hurdles event in progress during the Guards Division Individual Athletic Championships which took place at Plon recently.

KIEL JOURNAL

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN'S LEADING WEEKLY

Circulating in the districts of Kiel, Neumunster,
Schleswig, Rendsburg, Eckernforde and Flensburg

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The Education Problem

OF premier importance in the rebuilding of Germany is the establishment of a wise system of educating the children and re-educating the adolescents who have been so influenced by their former training. It is obviously insufficient to attempt to eradicate Nazi teaching, and then leave nothing in its place. It is essential, in fact, that it is replaced positively by a rigid moral training. Most important is to stress the significance of the free will with which we are invested at birth to use for the good of society as a whole.

The first factor that must be faced is that the fundamental racial attitude that accepted Nazism springs from a source which existed long before the momentous 1930's. We find evidence of this in the style of the music of Wagner and the teachings of Nietzsche, both beloved of the German people. Our choice of casual relaxation is rarely an indication of our character; but when we turn to philosophy or music and similar serious pursuits we take care to seek those which we know will fill our needs. It has been suggested that the German intellectuals sponsored and inflamed the fierce racial pride that led to the belief in Aryan superiority. Racial pride is not undesirable in a nation, but it must be tempered by consideration of the individual and his rights, no matter what his race or creed may be.

The necessity for divorcing politics from basic education, and for wielding more than a national influence in the training of students cannot be advocated too emphatically. It is not sufficient for scholars to absorb endless knowledge and yet achieve no reliable discrimination between the simple rights and wrongs in life. It is not so necessary to learn, parrot fashion, a vast number of facts, as to cultivate a capacity for discerning and reasoning as an individual.

The world remembers the men and women who kept their freedom of spirit throughout their sufferings in concentration camps, in exile and in slave labour camps. Many of them gave their lives for what they believed, and many, by their strength of character and purpose, saved the lives of their friends and associates. A large percentage of these men and women were artists, doctors, poets and writers — intellectuals who had formed their ideals alone; and, because they knew the kind of world they wanted, they had the courage of their convictions. Their example should be sufficient argument for an education that stimulates free and honest thought.

One obstruction to educating the youth of Germany to be good citizens of the world will be found in those parents who will not co-operate. As we find in the schools in distressed areas of England, a teacher cannot consolidate the improving effects of her teaching when a child's home environment is harmful and totally unsuitable. There are German parents who are antipathetic to the British and who will do as much as they can to influence their children at their most impressionable age. It is not difficult to understand this attitude for most of us nurse grievances a long way past their logical conclusion.

Another problem, also found in England, is the effect now becoming apparent of the wartime absence of fathers when their firm hand was most needed. A mother can, to a certain extent, take the place of her husband in normal circumstances, but in a country where moral standards are so confused, her task is overpowering in its responsibility.

There is one big compensation for the men and women who have undertaken the great task of reforming the German education system and changing the young German mind. It is the fact that children are very plastic in the hands of an adult who understands the psychology of their minds, and, being simple and direct in their approach to everything, they will recognize that they are being led in a way which seems right to them, and which later they will know to be the only way.

Those who have identified themselves with this work will find that their job will often be a thankless one. But if their project is successful, as it certainly deserves to be, they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped not only Germany, but the whole world, in taking another step towards the security that is so desirable today.

KIEL JOURNAL

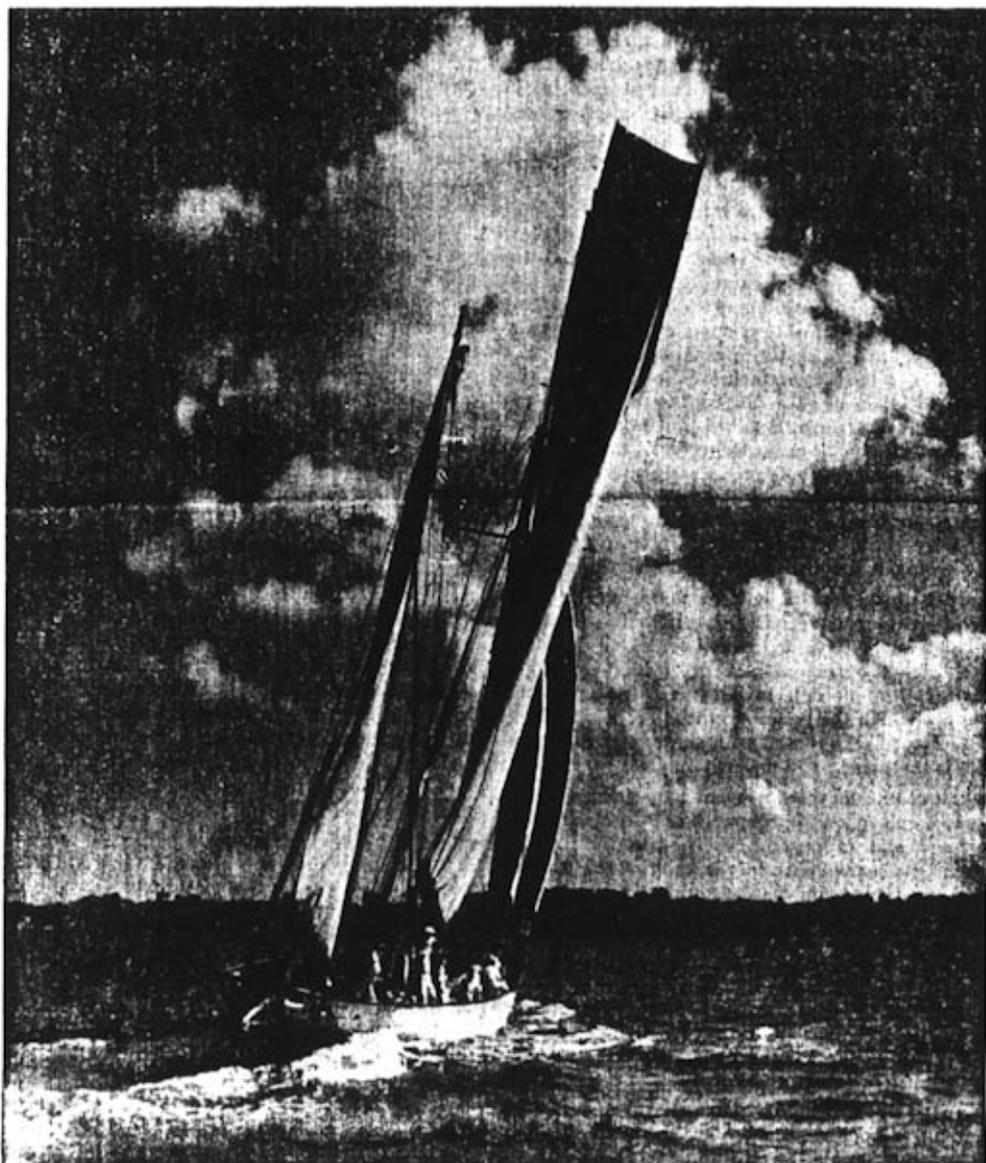
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NO 55

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1946

FIFTY PFENNIGS

THE TURN OF THE TIDE



Just a yacht cutting through the placid waters of Kiel Harbour, but this fine picture, besides being appropriate at a time when sailing is in full swing, seems symbolical of the happier and more peaceful days which, may it be hoped, are now dawning upon mankind.

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IMPACT

DAILY there arrive in Kiel, and all over Germany, men and women who have chosen to associate their efforts with the tremendous task that faces the rebuilders of Germany. In spite of bitter and serious allegations about the Control Commission in the British Press, we honestly believe that there exists a heartening percentage of those who hope most fervently to see Germany become sound again in the qualities and advantages that will enable her to be useful, both nationally and internationally. These people are not necessarily to be labelled pro-German or anti-British. They are realists, and yet idealists too. They are realists in as much as they recognise that, with the reinstatement of Germany to material independence and popular government and legislature, the British Empire will lose what is, at present, a grave responsibility, and gain an asset. They are idealists because they know that no good can arise and flourish in a world that is not well in all its members; because they know that there are children, and others, who have already suffered from the reign of the Nazis, who deserve no blame and who should not have to experience the punishment incurred by those of their countrymen who have already wronged them so deeply and irrevocably.

Those Britons who have seen Germany for the first time on their arrival to serve with the Control Commission will have been perplexed, and often distressed, by the things that they have seen. The shock of finding oneself in this defeated country, the country which the generation that arose after the Great War learned to regard with anxiety even before Munich, is disturbing and unsettling.

However, like most unpleasant experiences, even this loses its clarity and sharpness of outline after a few weeks, and is pushed, in escapist fashion, into obscurity. But somewhere in the back of the shock, there is something in the stimulus for such an emotional disturbance that is praiseworthy. That should be nurtured and encouraged, for in the realisation of the temporal and moral sicknesses in Germany lies the way to the development of the sense of responsibility which is an integral virtue of those who would rebuild.

There is in the make-up of the British an obstinate refusal to admit the existence of anything well-meaning in their motives. To be scrupulous is secretly admired, but is openly ridiculed as sentimentality. In its national environment that trait is amusing and not to be taken very seriously. In Germany, it is not only harmful, but criminal. It is the fear of such ridicule that forces upon the weak the calm acceptance of the Black Market and all the conditions that it imposes on the life of Britons and Germans alike. It is

tragic that such a trivial failing as vanity — for the fear of ridicule is vanity — should be allowed to have such far-reaching effects on the conduct of a people whose example can count for so much at this time.

On the occasions when an individual raises his voice against one of the varying forms of corruption and immorality so prevalent in Germany, it is encouraging that he finds himself surrounded by supporters in an audience who, by their silence, he had believed to condone the behaviour of their countrymen. If more advantage was taken of this unvoiced dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs, if those who have firm opinions would air them more frequently, and be more vehement in expressing them, they would assist immeasurably the cause and the reputation of the British Control Commission in Germany.

The much discussed voucher system is almost upon us. This event provides an opportunity for a reconsideration of what is considered as a proper and suitable code of behaviour by the British in Germany. Is it inevitable that those who believe in the importance and weight of seemingly small moral issues should be accused of being ponderous and hear their beliefs described as cant? Can principles and conventions be dispensed with so simply in a world where they are more essential than ever? Are we to believe that a frightening number of British men and women are approaching that decadence of which pre-war Nazi propaganda accused us? We think not. It is our earnest belief that the trouble is not so fundamental in most cases as it would appear to be. We suggest that it is as superficial as thoughtlessness, although not as innocent as complete ignorance of what is happening all round at present.

The people of the British Empire earned undying prestige by their valour and unflagging energy in the last world conflict. Is the sacrifice of those who did not live to see the post-war order of things to be lost in individual pettiness, escapism and mental inertia? When we entered the war, the reason for our doing so was not trivial. If we were asked: "For what are you fighting?" we answered spontaneously and without embarrassment. Yet suddenly, with the end of the war, we find that any word of patriotism or, more prosaically perhaps, but fairer, any thought for the ordinary British taxpayer seems to be the subject for jokes, and nothing more.

We believe that the sensible German wants to assist in the rebirth of his country. By the nature of his political training, he reacts more readily to good example, and relies more upon such outer stimuli than we, in fact, sometimes realise. We shall meet opposition from a number of Germans, and indifference from others, while others will be too ill and aged by their experiences to be able to help at all. This is not a sterile or even hopeless state of affairs.

On the day that this article was written, a man dressed like a beggar lay in a doorway in Kiel, as though he were dying. Nobody looked, or spared a thought for him. But not very far away in Germany, new lives were beginning; lives not yet marked by Nazi doctrines or influence. To these lives, and to their promise, the whole world looks. In our capacity as leaders we must not fail them.

Mr. John Rose
US Mission to UN
2 Park Ave
NYC

In reference to your
message I cannot go to
India if I am on the
UN delegation again
this autumn & I
would prefer to wait
another year. I should
like to talk this over
with you. If it is
thought desirable for
me to go I might go

in 1951 if I am
alive & well!

Ross, J.

Mr. John Ross of the US MISSION called to relay a message from Mr. Mathews of the South Asian Division of the State Dept.

"I understand Mrs. Roosevelt was approached some little time ago by the Watamull Foundation which suggested that she visit India and offered to pay her expenses. Mrs. Roosevelt is reported to have said that this was attractive to her, but she would have to consider whether it would be possible. The foundation has heard nothing from her. They are making their plans in the near future. When next you see Mrs. R. please take this matter up with her. We in the South Asian Division believe that a visit of this type would be of benefit to our relations but do not think it proper for us to influence her decision."

Cannot go if in U.S. this summer
would prefer to wait another yr.
Talk it over with Mr. Ross if
he thinks advisable to go in
1953 if in when possible?