

President's Secretary's File Box 72
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State: Consular Reports Relating to
Cond. in Occupied Countries 1941 Part 1

Cologne, Germany

August 5, 1941

REPORT ON COLOGNE.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's strictly confidential instruction of August 1, 1941 directing me to prepare a report on conditions in the Cologne consular district.

I was stationed in Cologne for almost six years. The district is perhaps the most important industrial area of Germany, and borders on Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. I was also stationed on two previous assignments and for a period of seven years in Berlin, so that, with an assignment of two years in Vienna, I have spent a total of 15 years in the German-speaking part of Europe.

My contacts in the Rhineland were largely with the industrialists, including Herr Krupp and Herr Thyssen and, through my membership in the Industrie Klub of Dusseldorf, I learned to know practically every leading industrialist. The views expressed in this report are based on my personal observations and my direct contacts.

Comments

Comments1. Morale.

The present state of military morale is excellent. As Cologne is an inland city I have no knowledge of naval morale, except by hearsay. Relatives of men in the naval forces show considerably more anxiety respecting the safety of those in the navy, especially of those in submarine units, than is shown respecting members of the army.

Official morale is also very good but not quite as high as military morale. Official morale is less good because of the distribution of officials over an ever-growing area of Europe, so that the home offices are weakened, greatly over-worked, and considerably dependent upon new and untrained personnel.

Citizen morale of the Rhineland, especially of Cologne, is low and, I suppose, the lowest in Germany, due to the successful and continuous British bombing beginning about April 1, 1941. Further concentrated bombing of populous areas, but on a larger scale, will further lower the morale. There were no current common complaints other than the aforesaid.

2. Bomb Damage.

From May 10, 1940 until July 8, 1941, the time of my departure, Cologne had a total of 243 night alarms. Since the first of May 1941 the raids averaged approximately six nights a week. In the district the greatest damage was inflicted upon the Cologne area, then, in the order named, upon Aix-la-Chapelle, Muenster, Dortmund, and

Duesseldorf.

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Duesseldorf. There were about six daytime raids but these caused very little damage. In general, damage before April 1, 1941 was very slight. After the introduction of the new and heavy British bombs, up to 500 pounds in weight, the damage was real. There has been, however, very little damage inflicted upon industry.

The percentage of unexploded bombs before April 1, 1941 was very high--about 50 percent. Since the new bombs have been put into use this percentage has decreased greatly, perhaps to as low as 10 percent of the total.

Incendiary bombs have also caused a measurable amount of damage.

3. Vital Bombing Targets.

Until May 1, 1941, the principal targets selected by the British were industrial plants. Some were attacked as often as a hundred times, as, for instance, the huge I. G. Farben plant at Leverkusen, near Cologne. About 25 bombs hit the plant but the total damage, up to July 8, 1941, the day of my departure, was not more than one percent. I am unable to visualize any real danger to German industry by British air attack until bombing capacity is increased a great many times, at least ten times the present capacity. Until this happens, the only effect is from so-called "area" bombing of cities, and then in concentrated attacks. To attack 50 cities once does not have a fraction of the effect on the Rhineland population as a whole as do 50 attacks in succession on one city. Bombing of communications and transportation

DUBOIS

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is very important, but, so far, has been very ineffectual. In so far as the effect on morale, and the dislocation of local transportation and industry are concerned, the best time for bombing is after midnight and especially the last hours before dawn. Most of the severe raids on Cologne have been on Saturday nights, giving the people a chance to rest on Sunday. This is a mistake. Sunday night raids followed immediately by several more in the succeeding days would be the best timing.

Cologne is severely damaged. The total loss of life is about 5,000. The number of buildings--mostly houses--destroyed is about 800-1,000. The destruction of historical buildings and seemingly indiscriminate bombing has lowered morale as much as has the loss of life. The destruction of the famous Cathedral would take the heart out of the people, considerably increase their respect for the English, and measurably lower German faith in an ultimate victory. In other words, only ruthless warfare has any effect. The total effect on the morale of Cologne since it has been bombed is definite and measurably very large. But only about 5,000,000 people of the Rhineland are thus affected. The rest are not touched and are not affected in any direct way. The reason that the Rhinelanders were not prepared to take this punishment was that they were convinced that no British planes would reach them.

4. Health.

The health of the population in general, and especially that of the army, is amazingly good. There have

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have been no epidemics of consequence, except for an unusual amount of skin disorders. There is no deficiency of medicines, nor food, except fats. But there is not a serious shortage of fats. Clothing is adequate but there is beginning to be a definite shortage of shoes, and a serious shortage in this article is expected by 1942. While there was a shortage of fuel in other parts of Germany there was none in the Rhineland. There is beginning to be a shortage of housing facilities in Cologne. Many engaged couples are deferring their marriage because of their inability to find an empty flat or house. There is also a real fear of a shortage of food as the people realize that the rest of Europe has been stripped bare.

5. Current Rumors.

- a. Japan and the United States will enter into a state of war at an early date; which development will have the effect of weakening Great Britain.
- b. Stalin will capitulate and a Russian "Marshall Petain" will sign a treaty of peace with Germany.
- c. The British Isles will surrender by the spring of 1942.
- d. The United States will enter the war and then Germany's chances of winning the war will be greatly impaired.
- e. The United States will at the last minute swing back to isolationism.

Rumors a., b., c. and e., are officially inspired, whereas d. is spontaneous.

6. British

6. British Propaganda.

Direct British propaganda, by radio and leaflets, is very inefficient, the number of listeners is almost nil. I believe that in Cologne, a city of 800,000, not more than 50 people listen to the broadcasts. The danger of discovery is very great and the penalty is a severe one. As the individual German is a coward, few people take the chance of listening in on a foreign broadcast. The terror, fostered by the Gestapo, is incredibly efficient. The system of denunciation has been developed to perfection.

The quality of reception of British broadcasts was satisfactory. There is no means of improving dissemination by radio. Leaflet distribution can be increased very much. Only the speeches of Churchill have a chance of wide dissemination by radio. I believe, however, that there is a great opportunity for effective propaganda.

7. Economic and Industrial Intelligence.

German economic and industrial intelligence is amazingly well organized and efficient. The central authorities have the case history of each unit of production, beginning with the raw products to the finished commodity. A keg of nails, for instance, can be traced instantly from the iron ore mine to the structure in which the nails finally disappeared. I am not competent to discuss the military and naval activities, but I know something of the air activities intelligence service. The Cologne air activities office employs about 2,000 men and women in 8 hour shifts, collecting, analyzing and
utilising

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bombs. New and better shelters are now in progress of construction. Civilian defense against incendiary bombs was totally ineffectual during the first large attack on March 1, 1941. Since then there has been an improvement. All civilians are provided with gas masks and at low cost. Only persons in the upper tax groups pay full price for the masks. The masks have to be replaced annually, and are effective only for a limited number of hours of use. Civilian training in the use of gas masks and in gas protection is very thorough, and includes every person. I do not know of any means of impairing civilian defense.

9. Prestige of Party and Popularity of Individual Party Members.

The prestige of the party is very high, not because of high regard but because of respect, due to the party's achievements and because of the average German's respect for the use of ruthless force. The popularity of the leading party members, however, is low--due to their newly-acquired prosperity, their standard of living, and their power to ruin any person. The vulnerability of the party and of the leaders lies in exposing the leaders' standard of living, the security of their positions, and in exposing the fact that they have assumed many privileges of high office for which they had denounced their predecessors.

10. Prestige of Services and Popularity of Individual Officers.

The army enjoys an unlimited and an unprecedented prestige in the country, but very few military officers enjoy

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enjoy an outstanding prestige. The instant an officer acquires prestige, the publicity concerning him is throttled at once. Even letters of congratulation do not reach him.

11. Main Sentiments or Emotions of People.

Outside of the immediate bombed area in the Rhineland, comprizing at the most a population of 5 million people, there is little evidence of war weariness. There was a short-lived touch of war weariness in the spring when Hitler in a speech hinted at the continuation of the war in 1942. While there is a friendly feeling toward individual Americans, there is only a little respect for the United States as a nation. Nevertheless, there is a real fear that the United States will enter the war. The first evidence of respect for the United States was when it was positively known that the United States refused to feed the Belgians. Instances which increased such respect included the exchange of the 50 cruisers for bases, the Lend-Lease Act and lately, among others, the announced occupation of Iceland. The closing of the German Consulates in the United States, which latter action compelled the Germans, such against their own desires, to close our Consulates in Germany, had not only a bad effect on German morale but a decided effect on their newly-acquired respect for the United States. Only definitely hard measures by the United States are regarded with respect.

The hatred of Russia was not sufficient in any degree to justify the invasion of Russia. The people did
not

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not need to be told that the cause of the war against Russia was the urgent need of obtaining grain for the German granaries, which would be empty by the summer of 1942, and the need for oil. The war with Russia is accepted and supported because it is regarded as a military necessity to win the war against Great Britain.

12. Migrations of Population.

In the Rhineland area, a total of about 500,000 have migrated inland due solely to the air raids. Most of these people came from Cologne, Duesseldorf, Aix-la-Chapelle, Dortmund, Essen and other cities of the Ruhr. About 100,000 children were ordered out of this district by the authorities long before the bombing was serious. The rest of the evacuees left on their own volition in the spring of this year, when the heavy bombing started. Easily one half of the population of Cologne, a city of 800,000, would leave if it were legally possible to do so. It is against the law to leave one's place of employment, and the penalty for doing so is very severe.

13. Channels for Obtaining Future Information.

I have no channels of obtaining future information, except through two of my foreign consular colleagues who remained in Cologne, and particularly through the Vatican, nor do I know how to develop contacts at this distance.

14. Identity of Axis Espionage Agents.

Among the Axis espionage agents in allied territories are now the white Russian emigrés. The Germans transported

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one batch of about 1,000 White Russians in number from France to Germany for intensive training. They passed through Cologne and I was able personally to verify the report. The Jews are being trained, especially those who have families left in Germany; likewise German-Americans in the United States who own property in Germany or who expect to inherit property in Germany, or who have close relatives there, are all potential candidates. Likewise many "Aryanized" Jews who are wealthy have been called into the service of the Gestapo. But the biggest drive at present is among the French, Belgian and Dutch in the occupied areas. These are the most dangerous ones today.

15. British Blockade.

The British blockade of Germany, judged from an industrial point of view, is very effective. German imports from the United States, South America and elsewhere are practically negligible, especially since the loophole in Russia has been closed. Exports have continued, however, in one form or another, up to the present. Most of the legal exports to the United States during the last year were shipments of expensive medicines, drugs, fine implements, et cetera. They were sent by air mail. Other shipments were made via Russia and Japan. My Brazilian colleague in Cologne informed me that there were unusual amounts of goods shipped from Germany, via Spain and Portugal to Brazil.

16. General Comments.

Industrial production in general is not curtailed

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in any measurable degree by the British bombing. Not a single plant of size or importance in the Rhineland has been crippled. Reserves of war supplies, however, show signs of the initial stage of depletion--due to the blockade--and not to the bombing. There is a huge supply on hand of anti-aircraft guns with a range up to 1,000 feet, a sufficient supply of guns with a range up to 6,000 feet, but definitely a marked shortage of guns with a range up to 10,000 feet. Aix-la-Chapelle, for instance, was heavily damaged in one night because of an insufficient number of long-range guns. The Russian campaign has thinned out the anti-aircraft defenses.

There is a noticeable shortage of oil and gasoline, leather, iron--even ordinary nails are available only upon requisition--and food reserves needed for 1942.

In so far as the war is concerned there is no difference between Nazi-Germans and anti-Nazi Germans, or so-called moderate Germans. To attempt to make a distinction between these two groups is, in my opinion, utterly futile. There are quite a number of Germans who do not want Hitler to win the war and to establish a Hitlerian peace, but for all practical purposes there are no Germans who favor an out and out military defeat of Germany.

Although Vice Consul J. Kittredge Vinson was stationed in Cologne for only five weeks, having been in Berlin the previous year and one-half, he was asked to collaborate with me in the preparation of this report and the views

expressed

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expressed in it represent our composite views and observations.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred W. Klieforth
American Consul General

August 7, 1941.

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject: Conditions in the Leipzig Consular District.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor, in compliance with the Department's strictly confidential instruction of August 1, 1941, to submit the following information available to me and to my subordinate officers (Consul Robert L. Euell and Vice Consul Paul M. Dutko) on conditions in the Consular District of Leipzig, Germany, containing about 7,000,000 people.

1. Morale. The Leipzig Consular District, being inland, contains no naval station and, far removed from combat areas, has relatively small forces in garrison. Military personnel is confined primarily to units in training camps, war prisons, and at anti-aircraft stations. The morale of the armed forces appeared satisfactory, but there was a marked absence of enthusiasm over the campaign against Russia, and there were indications of growing war-weariness. The troops in the Leipzig District, chiefly on garrison duty, receive the same rations as civilians and both classes frequently complain of the inadequacy

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inadequacy of nourishing food, especially animal fats and fruits.

The morale of the officials is ostensibly satisfactory but that of the civilian population shows signs of deterioration, due to (1) the unexpected duration of the war, (2) increased difficulties in procuring food and drink, (3) anticipated worsening of the food and fuel supply during the coming winter, and (4) anxiety lest the Russian campaign, instead of augmenting German food rations, may curtail supplies to civilians. Civilian morale is especially being lowered by a growing knowledge of increased American aid to Britain and anxiety lest the United States enter the war.

2. Bomb Damage. There have been few air raids, and relatively little damage from bombing in the district. The only important exception was the reported destruction of a few units in the extensive Leuna Werke, one of Germany's largest synthetic gasoline plants. Reduction of output in this extensive plant, however, was only slightly delayed by bombing which occurred chiefly during 1940. There were few attacks in 1941.

The important cities of the Leipzig District contain few visible signs of bombing damage.

3. Vital Bombing Targets. The most vital bombing targets in the Leipzig District are the Leuna Werke, the railway junctions, stations, and yards at Leipzig, Halle, Erfurt and Magdeburg, and the power stations in these cities and at Böhlen. Bombing by day would be more effective than by night because of greater accuracy and increased

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increased interference with civilian activities.

4. Health. The health of the population, including the armed forces, in the Leipzig District, is still good despite growing deficiency in quantity and variety of food supplies. There have been no epidemics. The "common cold" was due in part to lack of protective food. Serious shortages of food are limited to a few types such as fresh fruit. There is also a lack of fuel for heating dwellings.

5. Current Rumors. Nothing to report.

6. British Propaganda. There is no way of ascertaining the extent of listening to British broadcasts. Probably only one percent of the population listens to anti-Axis broadcasts in view of the heavy penalties imposed. The quality of the reception is very good for short-wave broadcasts in German from London.

Means other than radio broadcasts for disseminating propaganda might include the dropping of leaflets in German over densely populated areas. Such leaflets might reach people who do not listen to broadcasts.

7. Economic and Industrial Intelligence. Nothing to report.

8. Civilian Defense. Special precautions have been taken to cope with explosive, incendiary and gas bombs, and to educate the population in defense against aerial attacks, but these measures have never been put to a severe test in any part of the Leipzig District

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and, therefore, their adequacy cannot be determined. Elaborate public and private air-raid shelters have been and are being erected, especially near railway stations, in anticipation of increasingly sharp raids.

9. Prestige of Party and Popularity of Individual Party Members. The prestige of the Party has been high, except among the intellectual, conservative, and persecuted classes, but has been impaired even in the eyes of Party members by the unpopularity of the campaign against Russia, and by fear of the existence of dissension among Party leaders as demonstrated by the disaffection of Rudolf Hess.

The individual Party chiefs are not held in high esteem by the educated classes because of a realization of their lack of statesmanship and integrity. Many active Nazis are former hack politicians who have no conspicuous qualifications or good record of service.

10. Prestige of Services and Popularity of Individual Officers. All of the armed forces enjoy high prestige, especially the Luftwaffe.

Among the high Party leaders, Goebbels is detested, but Goering is regarded by most people as a hero and is possibly in as high esteem as Hitler.

11. Main Sentiments or Emotions of People. The general public is decidedly apathetic to the continuance of the war and longs for early peace but on terms favorable to Germany. There is much anxiety lest entrance of the United States into the war would lead to its
prolongation,

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prolongation, and also fear that such action would bring the ultimate defeat of Germany. There is no evidence of hatred of Russia, but there is a confident belief that the defeat of the Soviet military forces is inevitable.

12. Migrations of Population. In the Leipzig District there has been no exodus of civilians, but instead a temporary influx of persons from the Rhineland and the Ruhr, because of bombing, and from Western Poland, due to room being made for Baltic German evacuees.

13. Channels for Obtaining Future Information. The only means of obtaining information from the Leipzig District henceforth would appear to be from our own Embassy or from the Argentine Embassy or the Swiss Legation in Berlin, since the only consular officers of career in Leipzig, except Italian, are the Argentine and Swiss.

14. Identity of Axis Espionage Agents. No information.

15. British Blockade. The British blockade prevents the importation of much greatly needed food and fodder, petroleum products, and textiles and raw materials such as cotton and wool.

There are unconfirmed reports of small shipments to Germany from Switzerland of urgently needed supplies emanating from the Western Hemisphere.

16. Further Remarks. News of the departure of American consular personnel came as a surprise and shock

to

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to the Germans, who interpreted it as the first definite indication of the probable early entry of the United States into the war.

Religious Persecution. At Leipzig members of the Christian Science Church were in June startled to learn that many of their leaders, German citizens, were arrested without any assigned reason. Some neutrals considered this move as a retaliation against Rudolf Hess, whose parents are stated to be Christian Scientists.

In the general Christian field, the clergy are not admitted to hospitals for visits on a voluntary basis. They must now present evidence that the patient has requested a visit.

German Christians were encouraged in June 1941 when, for the first time during the war, the Catholic clergy read in the pulpit a complaint signed by the German hierarchy against wrongs done to the Church and its members.

The protest included recital of closing of Parochial schools, confiscation or assumption of possession of numerous monasteries, and direct restriction of hours of service.

No Church may announce services by bell before 1 p.m. following a night of local air raids. Moreover, services following such attacks may not begin before 10 a.m., even on Sunday.

Although Christians may expect further restrictions upon religious services should the Germans lose the war,

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there may be still more drastic action if Germany is
victorious.

Respectfully yours,

Edward A. Dow
American Consul General

No. 1

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject: Conditions in the Vienna Consular District.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's strictly confidential instruction dated August 1, 1941, requesting me to prepare a report for the strictly confidential information of the Government on conditions in the district from which I have just returned and, in compliance therewith, the following information is herewith submitted in respect to conditions in Vienna.

1. MORALE.

A discussion of the morale in and about Vienna should possibly be prefaced by a few general statements.

It is said that at the time of the annexation of Austria by Germany, 25% of the Austrian population were in sympathy with the National Socialist regime, 25% were opposed to it, while 50% were indifferent. In the period which has since elapsed

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elapsed a decided change is reported to have taken place. Persons who have watched developments closely state that at the present time there are not more than 20% at the utmost of the Vienna population who are in full accord with the present regime. On the other hand the persons who are opposed thereto have risen to well over 50% and the number of individuals who are indifferent has fallen off perceptibly. As a matter of fact the only persons in Vienna who are party adherents at present are those individuals who have directly profited by the new regime. These are, among others: (1) persons who have profited as a result of the expulsion of the Jews, (2) persons who hold positions in the party and party organizations and (3) persons who have moved into Vienna from Germany proper.

Any discussion of morale in Vienna must take these population groups into consideration.

Persons who are party adherents believe anything and everything that the German propaganda machine puts out. They are firmly convinced that Germany will win the war within a comparatively short period. They believe so implicitly in Germany's success at arms that in the opinion of the writer, they are almost immune to foreign influence.

Included in this group are the members of the S.S. and S.A. and N.S.K.K. organizations as well as the Hitler Jugend groups.

Nevertheless from time to time reports have been heard to the effect that even among the members of these groups

criticism

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criticism is expressed against the regime because of (1) the failure of the regime to bring the war to an end at the promised dates, (2) the plans that have been introduced for the drawing of more women into the industries, and (3) the action taken by the regime to collect excess profit taxes retroactively as far back as September, 1939. It may be that these headings might be taken as points of departure in measures having the lowering of morale as their objective. As a matter of fact they are already so used by the clandestine radio sending stations which are to be heard in Germany.

But by far the greater part of the Vienna population are downright opponents of the regime. They have, however, no means of expressing themselves except within the confines of their own homes, and there they speak quite freely and openly. They do not mince words and they indicate that their greatest desire at the moment is that somehow or other they may be relieved of the system which has been imposed upon them by National Socialist Germany. They disassociate themselves completely from Germany proper and point out that the war is a "Prussian enterprise" only. Many of the Viennese are eagerly awaiting the entrance of the United States into the war. They believe confidently that thereby the events of 1917 and 1918 will be repeated.

The writer is of the opinion that any steps that might be taken to raise the morale of the opposing groups in Vienna might in the long run prove to be useful.

2. BOMB DAMAGE

2. BOMB DAMAGE

Up to the time of the departure of the writer from Vienna, the city had not had any air attacks.

3. VITAL BOMBING TARGETS

Strictly speaking there are no vital bombing targets in and about Vienna, with the exception of a few small munitions plants on the outskirts of the city.

The city is, however, an important point in the line of communications between Germany proper and the Balkan areas, and any impairment that might take place in the railways and highways in the vicinity of Vienna and the Danube bridges at Vienna would have a negative effect upon movement of troops and war materials.

There is at Wiener-Neustadt - a city about thirty miles to the south of Vienna - an important airplane factory. This, it is believed, constitutes a vital bombing target.

There is a civilian airport at Aspern, just outside of Vienna. Along the highway between Vienna and Pressburg (Bratislava) there is at least one important military air field. There is also a military airport near Tulln on the Danube.

4. HEALTH

Up to the month of July, 1941, there had been no apparent effect upon the population as a result of the existing

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existing deficiencies in food, clothing, fuel, et cetera; although many minor ailments were being ascribed to lack of proper nourishment.

The existing rations are low - but, the people seem to be able to carry on.

* There can not be any doubt, however, that in these low rations, lies a potential means of the lowering of morale. That the authorities realize this situation is evidenced by the fact that at irregular intervals surprise extra rations in the form of, for example, an extra egg or two or of a few tins of sardines or a few ounces of coffee are issued in an effort to bolster up the spirits of the population.

The deficiencies constitute the principal topics of conversation. People discuss eagerly possibilities for obtaining food in addition to that provided by the ration cards. There appears to be a good deal of subrosa (Schleich-^{trade}handely) in food products at prices considerably above those set by the price fixing bodies. Moreover, many people still seem to have connections in country districts which can be used as sources of supply of farm products. Furthermore, a number of persons go out to the countryside regularly to make house-to-house canvases among the farmers, and they are frequently rewarded by being able to pick up a few eggs or a pound or so of butter.

The coffee, tea, and tobacco deficiencies may not be said to cause hardships but they certainly do give rise

to

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to a great deal of dissatisfaction, annoyance and bitterness.

In passing, it may be of interest to point out that there is a flourishing trade in second-hand commodities of all kinds. In fact there is a market for almost any kind of second-hand utility article, increasingly so as many varieties of articles have become almost impossible to obtain through the usual trade channels.

5. CURRENT RUMORS

As long as the writer was in Vienna, the city was literally alive with rumors. This was particularly true of the period immediately preceding the outbreak of the German-Russian war. During this period it was stated that the German supplies of food and of war materials of all kinds was running dangerously low and that this was the principal reason why it would become necessary for Germany to attack Russia.

In Vienna it seemed that much more attention was paid to the whispered rumor than to published material or to radio broadcasts. There are people who assert that the German authorities are fully cognizant of this situation, and that they themselves make use of the rumor as a means of spreading information which they deem to be of importance for their purposes.

By the same token, there would appear to be no reason why this means of spreading information could not be made use of by Germany's opponents as well.

6. BRITISH PROPAGANDA

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6. BRITISH PROPAGANDA

As is known, the listening to foreign radio broadcasts is strictly prohibited in Germany. Despite the frequent publishing of names of persons who have been given heavy prison sentences for tuning in on illegal radio broadcasts, the practice of listening to foreign radio stations is nevertheless carried on. There is a common saying that every night the Viennese "play with death" i. e., listen to foreign radio stations.

In general interest in foreign radio stations centers in the B. B. C. news broadcasts, both in German as well as in the English languages. The reception of these broadcasts is very good, the signals coming in clearly. Of late it has only been on rare occasions that the B. B. C. news broadcasts have been jammed.

In general the people of Vienna realize that the B. B. C. news service does not always give the full picture of events; many people for this reason have lost faith in the statements of the B. B. C. They feel, however, that the B. B. C. often gives more than the German authorities are willing to release and it is largely for this reason that the B. B. C. programs are listened to.

There are people who assert that the two clandestine radio programs that are on the air nightly, i. e., (1) Gustav Siegfried, I (The Five Minute Man) and (2) Die Europäische Revolution, are of British origin and form part of the British propaganda service in Germany. As far as could

be

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be learned, there was in Vienna, a good deal of interest in both of these clandestine stations.

That the programs transmitted by these stations were not welcome to the German authorities is reflected in the circumstance that they were usually jammed, whereas the ordinary British programs were not disturbed at all. This indicates that the allegedly clandestine radio transmissions are considered by the Germans as a dangerous form of propaganda; they might, therefore, possibly be considered as having great potentialities for oppositionist propaganda.

As a matter of interest it may be stated that the Gustav Siegfried I transmissions are based on 100% opposition to the rule of Germany by the so-called Ribbentrop-Himmler clique, but that they do not contain any criticism of Hitler himself or of the war against England and Russia. The Europäische Revolution transmissions are carried on by a group of four or five speakers, all of whom assert that the present war is not going to be decided by force of arms, but by the power of the united working classes of all of the European countries, including Britain and Russia. The programs of this clandestine station include direct appeals for sabotage on the part of all workers in general in Germany and the occupied countries and by transportation workers and women workers in particular.

7. ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE.

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The writer has no specific information to give under this heading. This might be the place, however, to insert a few words about Germany's intentions as far as the invasion of England is concerned.

In Vienna opinion on this point is divided, there being about just as many people who believe that the invasion idea had been given up as there are people who believe that the invasion will be undertaken just as soon as the Russian campaign has been brought to a successful termination.

To substantiate their assertions, people in the latter category pointed to rumors in circulation concerning alleged invasion preparations. These preparations were taking the form, it was said, among others, of the building of light one-man tanks which were capable of being transported by planes. Factories for tanks of this kind were said to be actually in operation in the neighborhood of Vienna. These same persons also said that the German army authorities were building in the Vienna area large troop carrying airplanes, designed particularly for use against England. They also stated that gliders were under construction capable of carrying as many as from 80 to 100 troops each, and that the construction of these "invasion gliders" was proceeding very rapidly.

Rumors were also in circulation in Vienna that special units of secret tank formations had been developed by the German army authorities. In these formations, tanks of unusually

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unusually large types were used. Furthermore these tank formations operated only at night and they were reported to have been the secret weapon used by Germany in the campaigns in the Low Countries and in Africa.

8. CIVILIAN DEFENSE

A great deal of attention has been given in recent months by the Vienna authorities to civilian defense. Members from every household were given special instructions in air raid precautions, and in each household fire fighting equipment was required to be on hand.

Many persons participated in these preparations unwillingly, but there was no way in which to circumvent the regulations.

In addition thereto air raid shelters are under construction in various parts of the city, particularly near large public buildings and railway stations. In hospitals the shelters are built far underground.

On the other hand, comparatively little attention appears to have been given to gas masks. As far as could be learned, there had been no general distribution of gas masks. In certain instances people had supplied themselves with masks through private purchases.

Throughout Vienna there are many public air raid shelters, the locations of which are clearly indicated by large arrows and other signs. In addition thereto, there are air raid shelters in each house. In areas where there are adjoining houses the cellar walls between houses

have

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have been broken through in such a way as to afford passage ways from one house to another.

Civilian defense seems, therefore, to be well organized in Vienna. Many of the Viennese are, however, not taking these precautions too seriously. For one reason or another, they seem to be of the opinion that the British will refrain from bombing not only Vienna but Prague as well.

These views are quite evidently, however, not shared by the authorities, judging from the fact that from two to three times a week there are intensive search light exercises in and about Vienna.

9. PRESTIGE OF PARTY.

It can not be said that the National Socialist Party is held in high esteem in Vienna, outside of its own immediate ranks. Remarks were frequently heard of favoritism within the party and stories were circulated of instances in which party members had suddenly become men of means.

It is true that accounts of this kind were only heard in opposition circles. The same individuals also asserted that party members were given special consideration in the distribution of food cards, clothing cards, et cetera.

Party officials also drive about in good motor cars. This frequently gives rise to unfavorable comment.

The principal party representative in Vienna is Baldur von Schirach, the Reichstattholter, and Gauleiter (District Governor).

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Governor). He is a young man and has risen rapidly in party circles and is said to stand very close to Hitler. His wife's father is Hoffmann, the official photographer of the National Socialist movement, who is said to have become wealthy through party orders.

Schirach has exerted himself very much to gain the confidence of the people of Vienna. Whenever possible he brings important party officials to Vienna and arranges characteristic party spectacles in connection with such visits. These spectacles attract the attention of party adherents but not of the public in general.

One thing can be said about Schirach. He is better liked than his predecessor, Josef Buerckel, was.

Schirach's right hand man - Gunnar Kaufmann - is not from Vienna nor is Herr Jung the Burgermeister, of Vienna. The National Socialist leaders in Vienna are practically all outsiders and form a group of their own.

Schirach, Kaufmann and Jung frequently address public gatherings attended by workers, members of party organizations, et cetera. Stories are in circulation of meetings of this kind, at which such tumults occurred that the speakers- particularly Schirach- were forced to withdraw.

10. PRESTIGE OF SERVICES

The writer has no comments to make on this subject.

11.. MAIN SENTIMENTS OR EMOTIONS OF PEOPLE.

There is no doubt but that many people in Vienna are
war-weary

-13-

WAR-weary.

Recently a man was heard to exclaim: "I do not care how the war ends. All I want is to be able to get my motor car back again". The following characteristic toast is frequently heard: "If only the war were over, even if we should win".

The apathy and indifference displayed by the Vienna population is almost surprising. Comparatively few people gather about the open air loud speakers when news bulletins are broadcast. The dramatized victory broadcasts receive strikingly little attention. Even the declaration of war against Russia did not cause more than a ripple on the surface, although Russia is regarded as being much more of an enemy than is England. Only once did the Viennese shake off the lethargy of indifference for a few hours, this having taken place when the news concerning the Hess flight to Scotland became known. On this occasion there were half-concealed smiles to be seen on the Vienna Ring boulevards.

In party circles, the U. S. A. and the role it is playing at present are unquestionably feared, or were at any rate until recently. This feeling is, however, not shared by the Vienna opposition which is looking forward eagerly to U. S. A. participation in the war, as a means to bringing about its early termination.

12. MIGRATIONS OF POPULATION.

-14-

12. MIGRATIONS OF POPULATION

The writer has no comments to make on this point.

13. CHANNELS FOR OBTAINING FUTURE INFORMATION.

The writer has no information to give under this heading.

14. IDENTITY OF AXIS ESPIONAGE AGENTS.

The writer has no information to give on this subject.

15. BRITISH BLOCKADE.

The writer has no comments to make on this subject other than that of pointing out that the gradual disappearance of utility commodities from the shops is unquestionably traceable either directly or indirectly to the effects of the British blockade.

16. FURTHER REMARKS.

In conclusion it may possibly be of interest to point out that many regrets were expressed by people in Vienna in connection with the closing of the American Consulate General in that city. The writer was told on more than one occasion that the withdrawal of the American representatives from Vienna represented the breaking of the last ties with the outside world. Numerous expressions were heard of the wish for the early re-opening of the Vienna Consulate General.

A characteristic

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A characteristic remark was made to the writer by a representative of the transport firm which had taken charge of the removal of the Consulate General's effects. This individual - himself the wearer of a party button - stated quite sincerely in the parting interview with him that he was sorry the Americans were leaving, that he hoped they would soon return and that there were countless other persons in Germany who felt the same way.

Moreover, the departure of the Americans from Vienna was unquestionably viewed by the groups who are feeling the sharp whip lashes of Nazi domination, e.i., the Austrians, the clericals, the Jews, the Poles, the Czechs, and others as well, as possibly representing the first step in the direction of a movement in which they will again be given their freedom.

Perhaps the best picture of the situation is reflected in the following parting words made to the writer by a friendly Vienna traffic policeman. "I would give anything I have to be able to go with you. Under the new regime the position of the old Vienna police is rapidly becoming unbearable. I do not know how much longer I shall be able to stand it".

ENCLOSURES

There are enclosed herewith short statements prepared by Vice Consul, T. J. Hohenthal, and by Vice Consul Joseph M.

Roland,

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Roland, of the Vienna Consulate General making additional statements along the foregoing lines.

Respectfully yours,

Harry E. Carlson
American Consul

Enclosures:

Enclosure no. 1 to
Despatch no. _____
dated August 6, 1941
from Consul Harry E.
Carlson, entitled: "Con-
ditions in the Vienna
Consular District."

SUBJECT: Memorandum prepared by Vice Consul
Theodore J. Hohenthal,
Vienna, Germany

Prestige of Party

Under this heading, it may be of interest to note a curious development arising out of the Russian conflict. This development relates to a change of sentiment, although not of political conviction, on the part of the extremists in political thought in Vienna, i.e. the upper classes of society and the communists.

As might be expected, the most influential members of the upper classes of Viennese society are representatives of the old nobility, whose influence is out of proportion to their numbers. This group is largely monarchist and clerical in political conviction, and has been characterized by its contempt for the national socialists and its fear of the communists. There can be little doubt that the decision to fight Russia received the whole-hearted approbation of this group, and represents perhaps the first development of the present war which has received its approval. However, it should not be concluded that they have thereby been converted to the tenets of national socialism. On the contrary, they do not hesitate to impugn the motives of the political leaders, which they characterize as inspired by economic and military expediency and not in any sense by devotion to the avowed anti-communistic principle of national socialism.

The extent of communistic sentiment and influence in Vienna cannot, of course, be known, but that it is widespread among the laboring classes appears certain. The ostensible Russo-German collaboration at the outbreak of the

the

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the war apparently served to bring about a greater measure of cooperation from these elements. However, it is currently rumored in Vienna that the Russo-German conflict has aroused new and determined opposition to the national socialist regime among the laboring classes in Vienna. Certain it is that the attitude of workers toward those whom they serve is increasingly characterized by sullenness and disrespect. A growing indifference and carelessness with respect to the performance of tasks assigned to them can also be observed among workers who serve the public.

Regarding the change in sentiment on the part of the two categories of political thought noted above, it is probable that the viewpoint of the first - or upper - category is of little practical importance, although it is possible that the attitude of the communistic elements can have a far-reaching effect.

National Socialism and the Catholic Church

Repressive measures undertaken by national socialist party officials against the Catholic Church in Austria may be divided into (1) those relating to the confiscation of church property and (2) those designed to destroy the spiritual influence of the Church.

Property. Wholesale confiscatory measures have been taken against Church property, including convents, schools and monasteries. In some instances religious houses are no longer able to provide suitable living quarters for their ordained members on leave from military service. In this connection it may be noted that priests are not exempt from

military

-3-

military service and many have already been killed or wounded in the present war. Moreover, large numbers of nuns are serving in military hospitals.

Worship. One of the principal expedients designed to alienate the population from religious worship is the compulsory attendance at various meetings, exercises, etc. of organizations of the national socialist party, particularly with regard to youth organizations. The writer has been told by priests that religious processions organized by them have been broken up by rowdies and that services conducted by them have been deliberately disturbed by marching and shouting national socialist organizations conducting their exercises in the neighborhood of the church.

It is the writer's opinion that these repressive measures directed against the Catholic Church must ultimately fail of their purpose, as the Church is too deeply implanted in the consciousness and traditions of the people.

Economic Conditions (Crops)

So far this year, the weather throughout Austria is reported to have been favorable for food crops, which are stated to be in a very good condition generally. This has been confirmed by the writer's personal observations in and around Vienna and during the train journey from Vienna to Frankfort-on-Main. In particular the grain and potato crops appear to be in a flourishing condition.

August 5, 1941

~~Strictly Confidential~~

SUBJECT: Present Conditions in the Paris area.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the Honor to refer to the Department's Instruction of August 1, 1941 requesting a report of the Paris Consular District. The report follows the form of the questionnaire enclosed with the instructions. Where the questions do not appear to apply to the Paris District information along the lines suggested is given.

1. The sentiment of the people in the French capital has for several months been one of more or less indifference. They admit having lost the war and expect unpleasant consequences. The conduct of the occupying forces has been disarming. There have been very few personal conflicts or even unpleasantnesses between French citizens and German soldiers. Each have ignored the other. French life continues in spite of official restrictions. The restaurants do a good business, the theaters are well patronized, the races are as popular as ever. However there is no sparkle in Paris life. It is as though the people were just going through the

motions.....

motions of living.

The German soldiers do not appear to be enjoying life. They attend the girl shows and pass time in the cafes but they appear to be subdued by the possibility that they may be sent to Russia. The prospect is not relished. The fact that the French ignore them does not please them.

The German officials and staff officers in Paris appear to be perturbed by the participation of the United States in the war. They express amazement that the United States should feel it necessary to become involved and are much concerned as to the outcome of the war if the United States enters actively.

German morale in occupied France will undoubtedly be adversely affected if there are reverses in the Russian Campaign and if the United States takes a more active part. French morale will be improved by the same factors but it is doubtful if anything will inspire the French to any effort on their own behalf except starvation next winter.

2. Paris was only bombed once, by the Germans. The damage was insignificant. The air field at Le Bourget has had several visits from the Royal Air Force but the damage has been quickly repaired.

3. There are several good targets on the outskirts of Paris, in addition to the air field at Le Bourget, including the automobile factory of Citroen and metalurgical plants which are manufacturing supplies for the German army. The best time for day light bombing is between 12.30 and 2.30 when the French workmen are away for lunch.

4. The health of the civil population in the Paris area has not so far been impaired by deficiencies. Nearly every family had some private stocks of food which were consumed during last winter, to augment the food currently available.

5. There.....

5. There is a rumor that the line of demarcation will be pushed toward the coast leaving Paris in the free zone and that the coastal areas will then be held under strict military control. This is probably groundless and the result of wishful thinking. Goering has not been seen in Paris lately and there is a rumor that he is in disfavor with Hitler and has been imprisoned. There were rumors that the R.A.F. intended to bomb the outskirts of Paris. The Paris people did not resent this.

6. The B.B.C. programs, especially those in French were eagerly listened to in Paris and it seems that the Paris population gets its information from that source. More reliance is placed in the British broadcasts than on the German controlled local press. The broadcasts in French come over very badly because of interference by the Germans which frequently makes them unintelligible. The broadcasts in English are usually clear. It appears that the British broadcasts are widely disseminated passing by word of mouth to those who have no radios.

7. The French automobile plants in Paris are producing automobiles and trucks for the use of the German army. The anti-Communist parades held in Paris on July 10 included nearly all of which were of French make. (tanks)

8. Civilian defence at Paris has been reduced to the black-out at night. The people have confidence that the city itself will not be bombed.

9. The Vichy Government has little support among the French at Paris. A few of the larger industrialists believe that their welfare depends on collaboration but the people in general are not for collaboration. The prestige of Marechal Petain is waning. Darlan is considered to be....

to be a traitor. Enthusiasm for de Gaulle is not great but a rising respect for the British automatically carries de Gaulle with it.

10. The French recognize the superiority of the German armed forces but they do not like them and are not fooled by the courteous treatment accorded to them by individual members of the occupying army. There are few army officers who are received socially by the French. Such as are, are conspicuously Austrians or Germans who have lived outside Germany and whose Nazi sympathies are not strong.

11. The French are very anxious for the war to end. Any peace which would get the Germans out of France and leave France free for reconstruction would be accepted. A British victory or German defeat does not appear to be essential. The French dread the next winter and the hardships which are in prospect. They are impatient with the United States for not coming immediately to their rescue. The French people would like to be rescued but it does not appear that they are now prepared to do anything in their own defence. That situation may change however if there is famine and no coal during the next winter. The Russian Campaign is viewed with indifference except as it may bring about an early end to the war. The Russian resistance is admired but enthusiasm either for or against Russian Communism is lacking. The French are much annoyed by the line of demarkation which interrupts commercial relations and makes business very difficult between the two zones. This is a constant source of irritation and calls forth much of the French genius for evading regulations.

12. A considerable.....

12. A considerable number of German families are moving into occupied France. Some Germans are being employed to take over Jewish businesses which have been closed out. The French refugees have very largely returned to their domiciles.

13. The guard on the line of demarkation is so strict that the passage of information from the occupied zone is very dangerous and should be entrusted only to professionals.

14. The activities of British agents in occupied France have become so important that large rewards have been offered for information concerning them, and penalties are given for not reporting them. British parachutes in considerable numbers have been found and frequent rumors are heard of British agents masquerading as German officers and soldiers.

15. The British blockade has cut off imported goods, but the French do not blame the British since there were known to be stocks of supplies in France sufficient for several years before they were taken by the Germans.

16. The impossibility of suppressing the campaign to put V₅₃ everywhere is undoubtedly the cause of the German adoption of the same symbol. This is considered a moral victory by the French.

The French resent the effort to graft German culture on them. The signs in public places, the theater programs, the menus in restaurants and cafes are printed both in French and German. The German controlled press is not relied on and German films are not patronized. German newsreels are shown in all motion picture theaters by compulsion. During their showing the theater lights are turned on and plain clothes German police watch the crowd. Any manifestation results in arrests and a strong demonstration results in the closing of the theater. Although there is

almost no automobile traffic, the pedestrians are forced to cross only at crossings and are fined on the spot for violations. That type of discipline is particularly onerous to the French.

French persons cannot get passports or have passports renewed in occupied France, or leave occupied France except under very special conditions. Men between the ages of 18 and 48 are not permitted to go to unoccupied France. No passports or exit visas are issued to Jews except those few who are listed as "indispensable" and who work for the Germans.

Respectfully yours,

Laurence W. Taylor
American Vice Consul

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Certainly 99% of the people long for such a victory. A constant phrase upon their lips is "When the Americans come..". German attempts to break this morale serve only to strengthen it, as Germans are absolutely incapable of understanding the psychology of the Luxembourgers. A favorite and constant threat is that if the population of Luxembourg does not shortly "show more gratitude to the Germans, and appreciation of being accepted as Germans and manifest this by spontaneous pro-German activity, the entire 300,000 of them will be deported from Luxembourg and dumped into the Ukraine".

2. BOMB DAMAGE

Bomb damage has been trivial. Much of this slight injury was done along the French and Belgian frontiers during the fighting of May 10-12, 1940. The German authorities sound air raid warnings whenever British planes cross the Grand Duchy en route to bomb German objectives. On three or four occasions returning planes have dropped bombs in fields to lighten ship or increase speed, with little or no damage. By July 1940, the English had ceased to endeavor to damage railways or steel mills, and while Luxembourgers would welcome damage to their factories and property if it hurt the Germans, it is believed in the Grand Duchy that the English intend to leave Luxembourg intact, with the exception of the steel works and mining region.

3. VITAL BOMBING TARGETS

The vast iron and steel industry of the Grand Duchy is now being operated exclusively for the benefit of the
Germans.

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Germans. This will doubtless be a major objective when more planes are available. Such bombardment will even further strengthen pro-British sentiment in the Grand Duchy, and will cause much satisfaction insofar as it serves to discomfit the Germans. Bombardment of steel objectives will be most effective after widespread destruction of Steel Mills in Germany shall have made the Luxembourg works more essential to the Germans than is now the case.

4. HEALTH OF POPULATION

The population of Luxembourg is still adequately nourished, and its health is good. Such German forces as are still in the Grand Duchy are well fed, housed, and looked after. No epidemics have as yet been reported to me. Even influenza last winter was mild and on a small scale. There is no marked lack of housing facilities.

5. CURRENT RUMORS

Current rumor is prone to exaggerate alleged differences between the Army and the Nazi party officials. This is constantly fanned by the fact that in Luxembourg the few high military officers still remaining do not conceal their sympathy with the local population and their disgust at the inhuman activities of the German Civil and Gestapo authorities, which they often criticize and sometimes actively oppose. It is much too soon to anticipate any real help from this mutual distaste.

6. BRITISH PROPAGANDA

British propaganda is efficient in Luxembourg largely because Luxembourgers want to believe everything they can to the disadvantage of Germany. Such propaganda is carried

out

LUXEMBOURG

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out by radio, and by the dropping of leaflets in German from Aeroplanes. Although the Germans have confiscated hundreds of radio sets, and have savagely punished persons accused of listening to British broadcasts, I was assured on July 1, 1941, that practically every Luxembourger, not in jail, daily hears directly or at second hand the B.B.C. broadcasts. Luxembourgers simply will not listen to German stations nor to their own "Radio Luxembourg", now taken over by the Germans. Quality of daylight reception is seldom good on the medium wave lengths, and every effort is made by the Germans to "jam" the short-wave lengths, but determined Luxembourgers always manage to find at least one wave-length on which they can get intelligible reception. The B.B.C. "Luxembourg Programme" each Sunday morning broadcast in the Luxembourg language, is listened to by a very high percentage of the population, and is called affectionately the "Nine o'clock Mass". I have been asked to suggest that the hour be changed to 9 or 10 in the evening, in order that Luxembourgers may listen without running the risks now occasioned by the fact that everybody is now in his house at nine o'clock in the morning listening to this broadcast as if it were indeed the "bread of life" and their absence from streets and parks causes suspicion. While there is not much need of propaganda in Luxembourg so long as the Germans are there to keep Luxembourgers at white heat in hatred of everything German, encouraging statements by Allied heads of state concerning the restoration of Luxembourg's independence are always helpful and reassuring. Luxembourgers are always well informed about the progress of the war,

from

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from British, American, and other friendly radio programmes.

7. ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

For all practical purposes, Luxembourg is now through a calculated and efficient regime of terror, administered as a part of the "Moselle Gau", or district of the Moselle, under a Gauleiter residing part of the time at Coblenz. There are no longer any military movements in the Grand Duchy, any more than in a similar space in Western Germany. Economically the Grand Duchy has been attached to Germany. The vast steel industry is functioning normally, under German supervision, and for German military purposes. Except for certain anti-air-raid armament in the mining and steel centers, all the "flack" (anti-airplane cannon), have been taken away from the Grand Duchy.

8. CIVILIAN DEFENSE

It does not seem probable that the British will raid the country from the air, as except for certain railways and steel mills, there is still little of military importance in the Grand Duchy. Nevertheless, air-raid shelters are ample in quantity and quality, having been installed by the legitimate Government before the German invasion. The German authorities have introduced the same measures of civilian defense which apply to German territory. During the early spring of 1940, most of the population secured simple but fairly efficient gas masks at their own expense. I know of no means for impairing their value.

9. PRESTIGE OF GERMAN RULERS

The German rulers of Luxembourg are cordially detested by

by

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by 99% of the population. Particularly is this so in the case of the so called "Gauleiter", Gustave Simon, Chief of the German Civil Administration. This ruffian failed to pass his examinations for school teacher, entered the Nazi party, and by his fanaticism and brutality became Gauleiter of Coblenz. He was sent to Luxembourg in August 1940, with absolute and unlimited power, and has exercised this to such an extent that he is universally feared and hated. His second in command is Siekmeyer, whose manners and attitude are much more reasonable. Not one in the whole Nazi set-up in Luxembourg has any dealings with, or social relations with respectable Luxembourgers. Their Non-German contacts are solely with the flotsam and jetsam of the scum of the population. The artificial Luxembourg Nazi party, - "Volksdeutschebewegung", - is run by perhaps a dozen Naturalized Luxembourgers of German origin, or, - as in the case of its leader Professor Kratsenburg, a German born in Luxembourg who opted for Luxembourg nationality. Kratsenburg, a retired school teacher, did not amount to a row of pins, until the entry of the Germans, who chose him to organize the movement, and protect him by all the force of the Gestapo from the punishment which outraged Luxembourgers would otherwise inflict upon him. His "party" is recruited by threats and force, and 99% of its members would murder him tomorrow if they were free. No one is allowed employment who does not join the Volksdeutschebewegung, and others who do not need to work to live are told that refusal to join will invite confiscation

of

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of property and deportation to a concentration camp in Germany for life. This "party" in Luxembourg will not last five minutes after the expulsion of the German Civil Administration, and the Luxembourgers themselves will wreak summary vengeance on its "leaders", before the return of the Grand Ducal Government. In every city and village, good people point out the tree or telegraph pole which has already been selected from which to hang the local traitor who leads that branch of the Nazi party.

10. PRESTIGE OF SERVICES

The German Civil Administration in Luxembourg has only the prestige inspired by fear and terror. Nearly the entire population regards the Luxembourg branch of the Nazi party, (Volksdeutschebewegung) with contempt and hatred. See foregoing paragraph.

On the other hand, the few military officers still remaining in the country, notably the Stadtkommandant, Major General Schmidt, and the Chief of the Passierscheinstelle, (Travel Permit Bureau), Baron von Hühne-Horningen, enjoy high prestige for the correctness and justice with which they have been animated, and the many cases in which they have intervened on behalf of brutally treated Luxembourgers. Luxembourgers frequently say that Baron von Hühne-Horningen is the sole German who will be permitted to remain in Luxembourg after the restoration.

The Gestapo and the Civil Administration are so universally detested and are believed to be so utterly without character that no exposure of their past lives

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portion of the Grand Duchy. Just under 100% of these have now returned to their homes.

The Germans have deported nearly all of the religious orders (monks and nuns), frequently to Germany, sometimes to occupied or unoccupied France. Many popular parish priests have been deported to Germany where, after nearly a year, they are still in solitary confinement. Other priests of great learning or influence have been summarily deported to unoccupied France. The Germans constantly threaten to deport the entire population of the Grand Duchy to the Ukraine, and repopulate the Country with Germans, giving to these foreign party hacks the great wealth and lands of one of the hitherto most prosperous countries in the world.

13. CHANNELS FOR OBTAINING FUTURE INFORMATION

Since my departure from Luxembourg, I believe that the Luxembourg Legation in Washington will be the best means of securing information. The Minister, Honorable Hugues LeGallais, through his Government-in-Exile, will probably be better posted concerning Luxembourg than anyone else. He, and his friends, have indirect, slow, but probably the best contacts left. The American Embassy at Berlin is not allowed to send any officer or courier into Luxembourg, but if it cared to undertake the work, there are frequent visits to Berlin of good Luxembourgers who would gladly report on conditions, and who would be willing to take messages. For months before my departure I was overwhelmed by offers from honest and brave persons to engage in secret work for our Government along these lines. Many of them have since been imprisoned or deported

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to Germany for compulsory unpaid labor. In any concrete case of great importance I would be glad confidentially to discuss with the Department the means which could then probably be improvised to effect communication. For the present, I do not see much need for such activity.

14. AXIS ESPIONAGE AGENTS

I have no information concerning Axis espionage agents acting in allied territories, United States, or elsewhere.

15. BRITISH BLOCKADE

Except for a marked paucity of tea and coffee, and a strict rationing of tobacco and cigarettes, the British blockade has had no perceptible effect on Luxembourg. The country had sufficient stores of all kinds on hand before the German invasion to last for 14 months without any new imports whatever. The Germans, while allowing their soldiers to purchase whatever they wanted in the way of soap, chocolate, coffee and tea on their arrival, did not plunder Luxembourg as they are reputed to have done in other countries.

16. FURTHER REMARKS

Outwardly, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg presents an astonishingly normal appearance. Little war damage has been done, shops are still open, better stocked than in Germany, a fairly large number of automobiles are still in circulation, though severely rationed with regard to gasoline. Trains circulate on slightly reduced schedules. Telegraphic, postal, and telephone communications throughout the country are normal, while these communications with neutral and certain occupied countries are still maintained, but with severe censorship and other restrictions.

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restrictions. There is no monetary barrier between Luxembourg and Germany, Reichsmarks circulating in both countries. Lastly the customs barrier between Germany and Luxembourg has been removed. Travel between the two countries, as well as between Luxembourg, Belgium, and France is severely restricted, and requires a permit which may take weeks or months to secure.

It is only when one talks to the people and notes their moral suffering that one senses the change since the Germans came. There is no one who has not a friend, near relative, or son or daughter in a German Prison, in exile, or doing forced labor in Germany. The fact that Luxembourg still eats well, slightly better than in Germany, only accentuates the bitterness with which people view the situation. They often say: "Belgium is starving, but Belgium is morally free. We eat well, but are physically and morally slaves of a ruthless and hated oppressor!"

Respectfully yours,

George Platt Waller
American Consul