

Thousands Of Prisoners Still Unreported By Reds Five Years After War II

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Sometime, somewhere, somebody is going to insist on an accounting for the hundreds of thousands of war prisoners and civilians who are said to have disappeared like wraiths without trace into the vast fastnesses of the Soviet empire.

An outburst of heated official denials has followed Moscow's recent announcement that the repatriation of Japanese and German prisoners of war has been completed. And a wave of grief is sweeping countless homes where

families for five long years since the war's end have been hopefully awaiting the return of fathers and sons and brothers.

Japan Stunned

Japan was stunned when, in April, Moscow announced that Japanese repatriation was complete except for 2,000 prisoners serving sentences as war criminals. Tokyo retorted that more than 300,000 Japanese prisoners still are missing. And the United States, Australia and other governments urged the Russians to investigate.

Then early this month came the Soviet announcement that German repatriation was complete. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of the West German government bitterly charged that 1,500,000 Germans, including "tens of thousands of deported civilians," were still missing in Russia. He demanded in the name of humanity that the Kremlin account for their fate.

At the same time John J. McCoy, U. S. high commissioner for the American zone, declared Russia failed to account for "many hundreds of thousands of German prisoners of war," adding:

"I think the world should know what happened to them and the many thousands of German civil-



CAUGHT IN THE ACT—Two Berlin youths posting forbidden Communist propaganda in the western zone of the city are caught in the act by an alert cameraman. As one dashes for cover, the other hides his face to prevent identification by police. The posters are part of the deluge of propaganda material being distributed in western Berlin to boom the Communist youth rally set for May 28.

ians who also disappeared into the Soviet Union."

Labeled "Fantastic"

State department officials in Washington labeled the Russian announcement as "fantastic and absurd." They estimated that the Soviets were holding at least 200,000 German troops in forced labor and prisoner of war camps.

The big three foreign ministers—U. S. Secretary of State Acheson, French Foreign Minister Schuman and British Foreign Secretary Bevin—also stated in a communique during their recent London meeting that Russia "has also failed to repatriate numerous nationals of German occupied countries taken prisoner during the war."

Appropos of this, Vienna claims 5,000 Australian prisoners of war still are being held by the Russians. Leading Hungarian exiles in West Germany declare 350,000 Hungarian prisoners of war are missing in Russia.

Well, there you have the claims and counter-claims. What chance is there of adjudicating this unprecedented situation, which represents one of the major tragedies of history? The dispute would have to be weighed by competent investigators. Who would do this job?

The U. N.?

"Why, the United Nations, of course," somebody replies. That is a natural reaction, until attention is called to the fact that the charter of the U. N. provides that the organization cannot deal with German and Japanese affairs until after peace treaties are signed. Those treaties still remain in abeyance.

However, there is some specu-

lation among observers whether this question of prisoners may be raised in the fall meeting of the U. N. assembly. That body is scheduled to consider charges of violation of human rights against Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, and somebody may inject the question of German and Japanese prisoners in the Soviet Union.

Such a development would be no novelty for Russia. She was expelled by the League of Nations in 1939 for her invasion of Finland.

Rattlesnake Bite Kills Vacationist In Oregon

REDMOND, Ore., May 23 —(AP)—A 61-year-old Florida man, vacationing in Oregon with his wife, died in a hospital here Sunday from a rattlesnake bite.

Ralph Edward Shaff, 61, Clearwater, Fla., was fishing with his wife and a group of friends in the Crooked river canyon Saturday when they heard a rattler. Shaff, remarking that he knew snakes, hurled a rock at the rattler and hit it. His companions said that then Shaff, thinking the snake was so badly injured it could not strike, picked it up.

The rattler struck him on the

hand. Leelin Kirk, Buxton, Ore., carried Shaff up the steep walls of the canyon. He was rushed to a hospital here, but he died within a day.

Infant Cries Before Birth, Doctor Reports

ARTESIA, Calif., May 22 —(AP)—Little Lynn George has a distinction few babies can claim. She cried before she was born, says the doctor who delivered her.

Born yesterday, the child cried six minutes before actual delivery. Dr. Clifton N. Brakensiek reported. He said the medical rarity occurred because the baby was face up, instead of face down, and an air pocket formed to keep the baby from drowning in the fluid.

Both the attending nurse, Faith M. Fisher, and the mother, Mrs. Earl George, 27, under spinal anesthetic, also heard the cries. Dr. Brakensiek said he had heard of only one other case of prenatal crying. Little Lynn, weighing six pounds, two ounces, is Mrs. George's first child.

The Ituri forest in Northern Rhodesia is peopled with pygmies.

Barkley Stresses Need For Spread Of Armed Forces

NEW ORLEANS, —(AP)—Vice President Alben Barkley says "we must maintain armed forces all over the world and we may have to occupy more countries before the cold war is ended."

He made that pronouncement at an Armed Forces day banquet here.

Without naming the countries that may be occupied or what power could make the occupation necessary, Barkley declared "we must drive back this monster that has crept over the earth, destroying the freedom of man."

After world war II, the vice president continued, the United States hoped an institution could be set up to prevent future wars. He added:

"But we couldn't foresee that one of our partners in that war who fought side by side with us would become so selfish and so domineering that it would block the peace."

"We recognize that because of that nation so brutal, with no concern for fellow men, we now have to spend three times as much for national defense as we would if peace had come."

Citing the centuries-old struggle of the Polish people for independence, he said:

"They find themselves with a government imposed on them by the Soviet Union. All their freedom of liberty, pursuit of happiness, freedom of speech, press and religion are gone because Communism snuffed them out."

The vice president continued, "we should all rejoice if taxes were reduced and the budget balanced, but we can't endanger our country to save a few dollars. x x x (it would) cost far more

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to fight a third world war.

"The war is over, but the duration may have just started. We are committed to a policy that we ourselves cannot be secure if the rest of the world is insecure."

Fair Oaks Grangers Hold Regular Meeting

Fair Oaks grange held its regular meeting Tuesday evening east of Sutherlin at the school house. Mrs. Orville Smith, Mrs. Helen Briscoe, Mrs. Billie Williams and Mrs. Betty Maynard.

Pomona Master Howard Crawford initiated the following new members into the first and second degrees of the grange: Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas and Anita, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Atterbury and Mr. and Mrs. Ward Cochran.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brauning were elected as alternate delegates for state grange.

Reports were given by the various committees.

Visitors were: Mrs. Nellie Peterson of Sutherlin Grange, Mrs. Mary Whitney from Berkshire, Mass., and Albert Cochran of Rice Valley Grange.

DINNER HELD

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Dickey entertained at a dinner, in the home economics room of Yoncalla high school Thursday evening, having as their guests members of the high school board and their wives and Prof. and Mrs. LeRoy Hansen and Mr. and Mrs. Jean Cullin. Those attending: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Briner, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Russell and Mr. and Mrs. George Edes.

Truffles grow in clusters underground and are found by dogs or pigs trained to recognize their distinctive smell.

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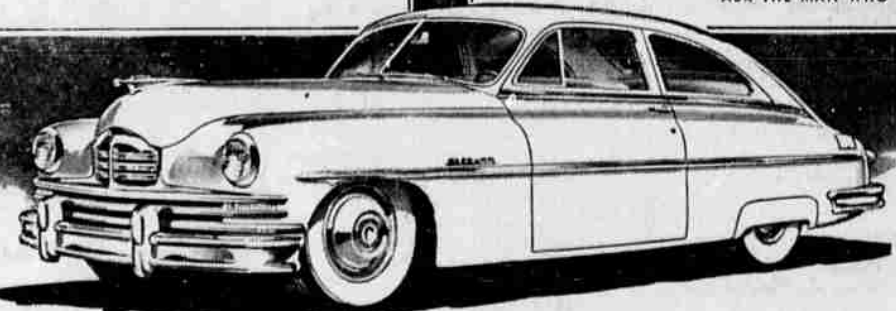
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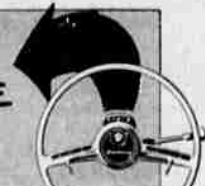
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