

Allies Face Huge Task

Germans Will Be Appalled at Nation's Ruin

Restoration of Beaten Country's Economy Is One of Major Tasks

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AP Features

The United Nations face a whale of a job to put German economy back on a somewhat workable footing. The German people themselves will probably be appalled when they learn the full facts of Nazi economic mismanagement.

Adolf Hitler set aside all approved economic principles by decreeing that the German reichsmark was backed solely by the labor of German hands. In reality, it was backed by loot and robbery—first of the Jews, then successively of the churches, the accumulated wealth of countries which came under German "protection," and finally, the possessions, both private and public, of occupied and conquered countries.



To put German economy back on a sound basis will be one of the first tasks of the United Nations.

Food And Supplies
Consumers' goods will be a crying need in defeated Germany. I doubt whether any other country of the world that prided itself on the processing of materials from the raw to the finished state has ever so completely depleted its warehouses, its shop windows, its store shelves, as has Hitler's Germany.

Going to a department store, or a clothing firm, or a toy-shop, or even a drinking emporium—it is always the same picture of empty shelves, of lacking goods and desolate depletion. Even when we last Americans left Germany in May, 1941, the simplest commodities associated with civilized life were wanting—thread, toothpaste, wrapping paper, soap, shoestrings, men's suspenders, buttons, floor wax, leather goods of every kind, laxatives and other medicaments, electric light bulbs, batteries for pocket lamps, or what-have-you.

Food Plight Worse
Worse even was the plight of stores dealing with articles of food. My audiences during my lecture tours the past year were often startled when I enumerated to them which of the fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat products which I had seen on display in the shops of the city visited, were simply non-existent in Germany. It is true that the Nazis saw to it that, before they themselves suffered want or their own populations starved, the rest of Europe was stripped of everything in the way of food that could be carried off to the Reich. But even at that, the German people, too, went to bed hungry. Ricketty, puny children were ushered into the world. Master race production continued only in the Nazi hierarchy.

Unscrambling Economy
Another terrific economic task awaiting the United Nations is that of unscrambling the omelette which the Nazis have prepared by their ousting of rightful owners, both at home and abroad, of businesses, manufacturing plants, and institutions. Just how to trace the real owners, where to find their heirs if they have meanwhile been shot or have died, how to separate into their component parts undertakings welded into a seemingly indissoluble whole by the Nazis from a number of diversified plants—all this will prove a Herculean task.

The magnitude of the political problem, to my mind, depends upon the degree to which we may have encouraged democratic underground leaders. The democratic elements in Germany are there, there can be no doubt.

End of Professional Army
German bureaucracy is much like that of all other countries: it obeys and carries out orders. By this I mean the lower brackets of the huge bureaucratic army that every state possesses. Given determined democratic leadership, these run-of-the-mine German civil servants will do their assigned tasks faithfully. For all higher offices, of course, dependable democrats will have to and can be found.

The chief military problem which the United Nations will find in Germany is that of really and truly eliminating the military caste.

It was a great mistake at the end of the last war to foist a professional army upon the German people.

German Army Opposed
The largest political party, the social-democratic, from whose ranks were chosen men like the first president, Friedrich Ebert; the first chancellor, Philipp Scheidemann, and the first defense minister, Gustav Noske, was stren-

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF US FORCES



Franklin D. Roosevelt, who as president of the United States was commander-in-chief of this nation's army and navy in the greatest of all wars.

uously opposed to continuing the German army.

But foreign pressure prevailed, and a professional army was the result. This professional army naturally had hold-over officers from the imperial regime as its nucleus. Moreover, by insisting upon a 12-year enlistment, the allies themselves by their shortsightedness in this regard raised a group of privates, every one of whom was well qualified to become a drill sergeant when Hitler changed over to universal military training.

World War I Cost 31,809 Square Miles Germany's Territory

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The victorious allies under terms of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 lopped 31,809 square miles from German territory and transferred the 6,471,581 residents of the affected areas to other nations. The largest cession was the transfer of Alsace-Lorraine (5,604 square miles) to France.



TO THOSE WHO GAVE ALL

Here they lie. Guard them well with your life, sentry, even as they guarded that for which we are fighting, with their own!

Peace is theirs. Let it not be disturbed, sentry, even as the peace they died to secure for all mankind shall—once won—be undisturbed in future years by murderous marauders such as we have known.

And we who live—let us do more than bow our heads in reverence. It is for us to make any sacrifice to quicken Victory.

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THANKS FOLKS.....

"You've done a grand job . . ."
"Believe me, you gave us what we needed . . . and plenty . . ."
"And we know how you saved and sacrificed . . . worked overtime . . ."
"You'd understand what I mean, if you'd seen Joe come back after they gave him a shot of blood plasma . . ."
"Maybe it was your blood . . ."
"Thanks too for the letters . . . they helped us remember what we were fighting for . . ."
"But . . . can't stop to tell you more now . . . We've got to clean up the Japs . . . and quick, with your help . . ."

Keep up the Good Work, Folks. Don't Let Him Down!

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