

People of Leipzig Awaiting Moving In of American Forces

By Lyle C. Wilson
United Press Correspondent
Leipzig, Russian Zone, Germany, Mar. 14—(U.P.)—The residents of Leipzig are hungry, they do not like the Russians, they wish the Americans would move into the Soviet sector but they don't expect it and likewise they don't see much future for themselves or their city.

That in general is the attitude the traveler discovers when he takes a trip behind Russia's European iron curtain.

Together with three other Americans, I motored from Frankfurt northward approximately 100 miles through the United States zone to the first Soviet Russian road block.

Papers Examined
It was about 115 miles from that first Russian check point to Leipzig. Eight times we were halted for examination of our papers. The principal stop lasted nearly an hour for a thorough, polite but not cordial going-over. That included a complete statement of any money we happened to have along. Everything was noted in our papers for reference when we sought to leave German Russia for the west.

The Russians, and their German police representatives, were especially interested in the sum of American dollars or travelers' checks we might have. They hoped we would spend them in the American zone. That is a part of American capitalism they like.

Twice a year foreigners are permitted by the Russians to penetrate beyond the iron curtain as far as Leipzig. The occasions are the spring and autumn trade fairs in that once great commercial city. Red stars, red banners, red propaganda by loud speaker and pamphlet dominated the commercial exhibits of Euro-

pean manufacture, most of it from communist eastern Europe. **People Interesting**
The people of Leipzig proved to be far more interesting than the fair.

As we loaded our car to depart for Berlin a group of German men and women waved and shouted loudly enough for everyone nearby to hear:

"Can't we go along with you?"

Our appearance and automobile tags identified us as Americans.

If Leipzig is a fair sample of Russia's new democratic world, the people of eastern Germany would swap instantly for the old democratic world of the west.

The average Leipziger has no hot water. So far this year the head of each household has received about 350 pounds of coal for heating and for cooking.

Our party was billeted in private homes. With two Swedes I'd never seen before, I was billeted in a fifth floor apartment belonging to two elderly women. They must have needed the money badly, or perhaps they were compelled to take us in, because both of them sat up all night so that we might sleep. Neither would discuss the Russians or anything about living conditions.

Best insight into their lives was the apology one made next morning for not offering me breakfast. She had nothing to offer, no tea, no coffee, nothing.

Not Afraid
But the Leipzigers do not seem to be afraid. A woman exhibited said quite loudly:

"In our hearts we hope the Americans will come. Do you think they ever will?"

There was a liberal display of anti-American propaganda, but also a great window show of

world flags which included the stars and stripes.

Fair visitors received a colorful pamphlet called "The U.S.A. in Word and Picture." The cover girl was described as Mrs. Frank Herderson, an aging woman, shown with her leg lifted to the top of a table at a Metropolitan Opera premiere during an interview with an American gossip columnist.

A smaller pamphlet contained an ape-like cartoon of an American with tall silk hat marked by the dollar sign. A pretty German girl dressed in the uniform of Soviet service handed me mine. I inquired if I really looked like that. The girl laughed and said I did not. We were having some friendly conversation about the cartoon when an official called the girl away and gave her a lecture which brought a blush and perhaps a tear or two.

Leipzigers call the food store displays for the fair, the food in the Russian tourist hotel, "propaganda food." We were told that for three months before fair time Leipzigers had nothing much but bread and potatoes, and not much more than that for several months thereafter. In that way the Russians make up for food deficit caused by fair visitors.

Shortage of Caviar
With dollars or travelers' checks we ate well. But there was a shortage of black caviar even for the fair. The vodka was ample and powerful.

All food is rationed. But there is not even the pretense of a ration for coffee, tea, milk or cooking oils. Supplementary food may be bought at official, Russian-run black market stores at from seven to 15 times ration prices. Butter, if available, costs 30 to 32 eastmarks in such a store. The rationed butter price is three and one-half marks. But try and get it. For comparison, a skilled factory worker in the brave new Soviet world around Leipzig makes slightly more than one eastmark an hour.

Officially the westmark is backed by the French, British and Americans and the eastmark by the Russians and are of equal value. Actually the exchange rate is approximately seven eastmarks for one westmark. In American money a westmark is valued at slightly more than 24 cents.

One of the privileges conferred

You're Probably Too Dumb To Fill Out Income Tax

Chicago, Mar. 14—(U.P.)—Chances are two to one that you're too dumb to fill out your income tax form properly.

Dr. David P. Boder, psychology professor at Illinois Institute of Technology, said that roughly 30 per cent of the population has the mental ability to understand the forms.

It takes an I.Q. of 110, he estimated, to understand the government's instructions for filling out the longer tax forms, "so you're lucky if you have it all taken out by withholding tax."

Mentality Lacking
More than 65 per cent of the population "simply does not have the mentality to follow the legal, technical language," he said.

That's not all. Even persons with the mental ability to understand the instructions may fall down because they lack "numbers facility" or suffer from depressions.

It is the "tendency to repress unpleasant experiences" and not laziness that makes people put off their income tax figuring until the last possible minute, Boder said.

Boder had some suggestions that might make the annual ordeal easier.

- Get Several Blanks**
1. Get several blank forms, not just one, "so you can tear it up if you make a mistake."
- 2. Keep your old returns as a future guide.
- 3. Don't try to do the whole job at once; that only increases nervous tension and makes it more difficult.
- 4. Follow the directions "methodically and step-by-step, as you would a cooking recipe." If you don't understand the directions yourself, buy a tax guide or consult a government tax adviser.

Death Of Man, 110, Withheld From Public

Chicago, Mar. 14—(U.P.)—Fear that curiosity seekers would disturb the funeral caused a railway mail clerk to suppress until today the fact that his second cousin died at the age of 110.

William Williams, born Oct. 10, 1839, in a log cabin in what is now Chicago's Lincoln park, died March 8 of a heart ailment.

But Hugh B. Holcomb, his second cousin, did not tell the public until after the funeral.

Williams died in the Holcomb home, where he was interviewed on his 110th birthday. Williams attributed his long life to herb juice, and after newspapers carried the stories the old man was besieged by telephone calls from people who wanted to know where they could get some.

Herbs for many years were Williams' source of income. At the age of 10 he began assisting his father in a medicine show and learned how to compound the medicines. He estimated, Holcomb said, that he sold more than 1,000,000 bottles of herb juices.

Holcomb said army records authenticated Williams' age. He said he served in the Indiana national guard during the civil war.

Williams up to the time of his death was clear-eyed and smooth-skinned. The undertaker said he looked like a man 30 years younger.

by the communists on east Germans is working at "voluntary" community jobs such as street clearing or erecting government buildings. This work is done on Sundays on call of Soviet officials. It must be done without pay. From time to time Leipzigers do additional unpaid labor for such special events as Stalin's birthday or the red October revolution anniversary.

East Germans Left Cold
All of this leaves the east Germans colder than the cold war. The Russians long have been howling for unification of Germany.

U. S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy began last month to call their bluff. He told the Russians in effect:

"Okay, let us have unification. But first let us have free elections throughout Germany to discover whether the Germans want unity under the Russians or under the western democracies."

Now McCloy is banging away at the sound propaganda claim that the Russians are blocking nationwide unity elections. Conditions in Leipzig probably are a good example of why the Russians dare not risk a free election among their captive subjects.

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