

Germans Partners in Safeguarding Peace

Editor's note: In mid-August, 1944, hundreds of thousands of American troops were pushing east across France, fighting fiercely against stubborn German resistance. Today, some of the same American soldiers who fought against the Germans in that campaign—and others—are helping to train a peacetime German army. This dispatch was written by a member of the UPI Washington bureau who recently toured U.S. military bases in West Germany.

28,000-man navy helps protect the NATO flanks in the North Sea and the Baltic. Its air force is a vital link in NATO defenses. And the army, the real German bulwark, has more than 240,000 men, with a planned peak strength of 12 divisions.

On the 20th anniversary of the American army's entry into western Europe, the inevitable question still comes up about the wisdom of the re-birth of military forces which once terrorized Europe.

Germans Immune
The armed forces booklet of the Federal German government has this to say: "The experience of the recent past has rendered the German people immune to the danger of seeing the new army as anything but a genuine defense instrument. The soldier's position within the social structure of the nation has changed from what it used to be in former times. The new army is being built up under the handicap—which is also a blessing—or starting from scratch."
More blunt was an American two-star general: "You can say what you want about the revival of the German military, but we're damned lucky to have them on our side this time," he said. "NATO would be lost without them."

Added a U.S. officer who once fought against the Germans and now helps train them: "They're not sharp in the sense that the heel-clickers of old were. I wouldn't be surprised to see the goose-step come back some day—but never with that same motivation they had before."

Has Weakness
One of the most qualified judges of the German armed forces today is Lt. Gen. Hugh P. Harris, commander of the U.S. Seventh army, which has within its ranks two German corps for NATO operations. Harris, who monitors German training, said the German army is good tactically but weak logistically. Much needs to be done in building its support units, he said.

More than 1,500 crack U.S. and German troops under Harris paraded shoulder to shoulder together in Stuttgart

last month at ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the Seventh Army, which was formed at sea to fight Germans.

Americans and Germans train together daily, a situation unique in the military history of both nations. After participation in an exercise with German soldiers, Lt. George Joulwan, a U.S. infantry company commander, said he was "overwhelmed by their interest and efficiency."

Germany George C. McGhee, after watching German and American troops march together, said it was "heartening" to see former enemies training for common defense.

Of the West German air force, a low-flying U.S. Army pilot, after pulling his single-engine craft out of a sudden dive to avoid two German jets approaching on a collision course, told a frightened passenger:

"You have to watch out for these German flyabouts. They like to buzz castles and tele-

vision towers. They give our control tower the fits."

The air force is rebuilding in dramatic and sometimes startling fashion. Maj. Gen. W. A. Cunningham, commanding general of the U.S. 24th division, was unable to get U.S. Air Force planes for a training exercise so he called upon the German air force for napalm drops 400 yards ahead of the advancing troops.

"The German pilots were beautifully accurate," Cunningham said. "It was a good

example of real Allied cooperation."

One handicap facing the German air force is a shortage of adequate air space. It lacks facilities for aerial live-fire exercises, and the air space already is crowded with military and commercial traffic.

Limited air space was a factor in the recent agreement giving the U.S. Air Force responsibility for training West German pilots at Luke Air Force base in Arizona to fly the supersonic

F-104G Starfighter. American instructors and German students already are flying together in Europe.

As of a year ago, the German Air Force personnel numbered 82,500 and contributed to NATO one transport wing, four fighter wings, one reconnaissance wing and five fighter bomber wings.

There have been increases since then, as there have been since buildup of all German armed forces since the demilitarization of Germany after World War II.

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By GEORGE WEEKS
United Press International
Munich, Germany—UPI—These guys are just like most of us—they want to serve their time and get out."

That was an American G.I. talking. The "guys" he was referring to were Germans, members of the grenadier, panzer, mountain and airborne divisions which are now partners in safeguarding the peace with United States and other NATO soldiers.

Today, West Germany's

Getting Back in Touch

Dick West, Home From Vacation, Catching Up On News of World

By DICK WEST
Washington—UPI—When I go on a vacation I usually lose touch with the outside world, and sometimes with the inside world as well. It always takes me a couple of days to get caught up on what happened while I was gone. Meanwhile, it is a little difficult to carry on an intelligent conversation.

During my first day back on the job after this year's vacation, I went to the Senate

restaurant for lunch, taking a seat next to my friend and colleague, Sam Freeloader.

As might have been predicted I was immediately drawn into a discussion of current events.

"Do you think he deliberately lost that game?" Freeloader asked.

"That's for the jury to decide," I replied.

"The jury? What jury?"

"Aren't you talking about that football case down in Georgia?"

"No, I'm talking about Deep Rusk," Freeloader said. "I didn't know he played football."

"Not football. Badminton."

"Badminton!" I exclaimed. "That's a fine how-do-you-do! What do you suppose Khrushchev was doing while our Secretary of State was playing badminton?"

"He was playing badminton, too," Freeloader said.

"I must have missed something while I was away," I said. "How did Rusk and Khrushchev happen to be playing badminton at the same time?"

"They were playing each other."

"Were they using an ICBM for a shuttlecock?"

"No, they played at Khrushchev's place on the Black Sea."

"Rusk went all the way from Washington to the Black Sea for a badminton game?"

"No, he was already in Moscow."

"What was he doing in Moscow?"

"Signing a treaty."

"A badminton treaty?"

"No, nuclear test ban treaty."

"And Rusk lost it?"

"Not the treaty. The badminton game."

As I was saying, it takes a little while after a vacation to catch up on the news and get it all straightened out. I expect that in a day or two I will have it all clear in my mind.

But first I want to find out who this Christine is that everybody is talking about.



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