

Germans Seek Amnesty For Prisoners

BONN, Germany (AP) — A Christmas amnesty for hundreds of German war criminals still held in Allied prisons is being demanded by German veterans.

By former paratroop Gen. Kurt Baudert, ex-officers are touring the country urging that their convicted comrades be sent home by Christmas. These pleas are vigorously cheered by big audiences at veterans' rallies.

Foremost, the veterans are thinking of three of Hitler's field marshals: Erich von Manstein, now on parole in a Kiel clinic recovering from an eye operation; Wilhelm List and Erhard Milch, both in the American prison of Landsberg.

The British recently released Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. It is strongly believed that they will never bring back Manstein to his cell at Werl.

The "home by Christmas" campaign is a new phase of the continual agitation for freedom for Germans still behind Allied bars. In Bonn, politicians have threatened not to vote for German participation in Western defense until the prisons are emptied. Veterans and other groups consistently have held that the convictions of "the so-called war criminals" were illegal.

The three Allied high commissioners usually follow the custom begun by the military governors of freeing before Christmas any Germans convicted by Allied courts whose sentences would normally expire in the festive season. This generally only cuts terms by a few days.

About 75 per cent of the convicted war criminals have been released, either on expiration of sentence or by "acts of clemency." Some 500 are still held in British, French and American prisons in Germany and over 400 in France, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia.

With over 300 in Landsberg the Americans have the largest number, but the German campaign has been mostly directed at the British.

In Germany, the British are criticized for not letting the prisoners out. Abroad they are attacked for showing leniency. Italian legislators protested angrily at the freedom given Kesselring, originally sentenced to death for a massacre of hostages in Italy. British newspapers and politicians

questioned the wisdom of giving early releases. The South African Soldiers Association protested to the British High Commission.

The British high commissioner, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, recently replied to critics in Germany and abroad, saying:

"The war criminals problem must be looked at from the point of view of justice and humanity. Therefore, it is of no importance what soldiers' associations and public opinion in Germany and other countries demanded."

"I have thoroughly studied the court records of the war criminals. One man in prison at Werl had been sentenced 20 times by German courts. Another has served 11 previous sentences. Others in Werl have committed crimes against humanity in concentration camps."

Sir Ivone said he considered the best solution was the mixed commission of review provided for in the West German Peace Contract. It is to begin work as soon as the pact becomes effective.

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Low Joins British Paper

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — David Low, noted British cartoonist whose sketches have gained him world-wide fame and circulation, will join the staff of the Manchester Guardian Feb. 1, that newspaper announced today.

Low, the creator of Colonel Blimp and other famous characters, winds up a three-year engagement with the London Daily Herald Jan. 31. The editor of the Herald said his paper's relations with Low throughout the three years had been very happy.

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