

WAR CRIMES

Allies Overrun Death Camps

American troops in Germany last week hit the Nazi death camp belt, an area which revealed such horrors—the bodies of thousands of Allied prisoners shot, starved, beaten and burned to death—that even the cynics of the civilized world now could not fail to be convinced of the truth of German atrocities.

Buchenwald, Nordhausen. Langenstein, Ohrdruf—these are the names that now become the symbols of Nazi bestiality. In these camps, a few hours before American troops arrived, Nazi SS guards brought their careers of slaughter to a bloody crescendo. Russians, Poles, Frenchmen, Czechoslovaks and others were the victims.

At Nordhausen, PM's Victor Bernstein saw the bodies of 3000 foreign slave laborers. Said he: "You didn't have to ask how these people died. Ribs sticking out of chests, covered by skin drawn tight as a drum; arms and legs mere broomsticks; these people had been starved to death."

Bernstein revealed that many had been shot, some buried alive before the SS guards fled a week before the Yanks captured the place. He was told by survivors that 100,000 had been murdered since by the Nazi since 1941.

Stories sent by U. S. correspondents about the other camps were much the same, and in two instances Nazi victims had been lured into wooden huts, sprayed with inflammable liquid and set afire.

Big Three Warning

By the week's end, the Allied peoples' were angrily aroused. Prime Minister Churchill disclosed that a Big Three warning to the Nazis, signed by himself, Marshal Stalin and President Truman, would be issued within the next few days.

Reuter reported from London that U. S. Congressmen would be invited to visit Germany as representatives of the U. S. A. to see for themselves the horrors of the death camps overrun by the Allied forces. Quoting well-informed quarters, Reuter said that the invitation had been personally inspired by Gen. Eisenhower who is said to have been profoundly shocked by conditions in the camps.

On Friday, Churchill announced that eight British M.P.'s were going to Germany to inspect the scenes of the atrocities.

The question of punishment for Axis war criminals was also raised on both sides of the Atlantic, but there was still no definite word from either the British Foreign Office or U. S. State Dept. on the status of obvious war criminals—men like Franz von Papen, Hitler's one-time ace troubleshooter, and Alfred Krupp, German munitions magnate—now in Allied hands.