

# What the Germans Are Thinking . . .

Nazi Propaganda Gives the Key to German Doubts and Fears

**W**e cannot conduct a Gallup poll in Germany. Nor can an "Inquiring Reporter" walk along Unter Den Linden to interview Hans Schmidt, "typical Berliner." But we can find out by other opinion polls and from other inquiring reporters what the average German is thinking. Our reporters are the Nazis themselves. And the poll is tallied daily at short-wave listening stations, among them that of the Columbia Broadcasting System. The CBS corps of engineers, monitors and editor-analysts records and interprets the voice of the enemy. This voice has in general two objectives: one is to "divide and conquer" the United Nations; the other is to control the minds and thoughts of the German people. In the fight to control the mind, the Nazis must contend with the factors which shape men's thoughts, the spiritual as well as the purely physical values of life. What the Nazis say gives the analyst the key to Hans Schmidt's thoughts, when seen in the light of actual daily events.

Three years ago, when France fell, Nazi fortunes were at a peak. The "conquerors" sent home the loot of occupied Europe, promising that "final victory and peace were around the corner." Germans were thinking about a rich, new world and Nazi propagandists had little to disconcert them seriously at home. One year later came that fateful June 22, 1941, when the blitzkrieg turned to Russia. Prussia's old dream, the "Drive to the East" seemed near realization as the Nazi forces drove to Moscow. But the drive failed. Then Moscow struck back! In the winter of 1941-1942 great changes took place in world events. America entered the war and the RAF was pounding Europe. Sober thoughts besieged the German mind as the United Nations grew in strength. Dangerous thoughts for the Nazis, for all independent thought is a danger to fascism. Nazis can censor every German word but they cannot censor the mind any-

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more than they can censor a bomb. Nazi propagandists were forced to act, were forced to be "our reporters."

They knew the people remembered America and 1918, and they assured them that this time it was a case of "too little and too late." Then the people heard "unconditional surrender," and weighed its message in their minds. The German radio screamed: "Unconditional surrender means complete extermination. The Jew Roosevelt wants to destroy all Germans." Three years ago the people thought of victory and fortune while the Nazis spoke of peace soon to come. Now Germans wonder how it all will end, and the Nazis try to give them strength through fear. "This is a war to the finish." Berlin shouts, "with no quarter given. It is life or death."

These are the physical values, the hard realities that form the pattern of people's thoughts. But the spiritual values also tell us what the Germans are thinking about. When the Nazis warn against "Allied post-war lies" we know that the people are thinking about "Freedom from fear and freedom from want . . . We will punish the guilty and spare the masses but popular responsibility grows each day the people tolerate their Nazi regime."

The Nazi propaganda here analyzed is a record of Nazi failure to keep the German people from thinking "non-German" thoughts and failure to prevent the record from being known.

**By Henry Cassirer  
and David Schoenbrun**

**Germans Are Worried as  
 Allied Blows Strike Home**

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**THESE NAZIS SURRENDER,** shivering and beaten, while millions more lie buried in the Russian steppes. German women stare into empty space mourning the men who will never return from the East. Nazi broadcasts make frantic efforts to answer the mute "why," indicating to us that one freedom cannot die in Hitlerland, the freedom to think and to remember. Germans recall Oct., 1941, when banners heralded the imminent fall of Moscow. But Moscow stood firm. One year later Goebbels proclaimed the "final exhaustion" of the Red Army.

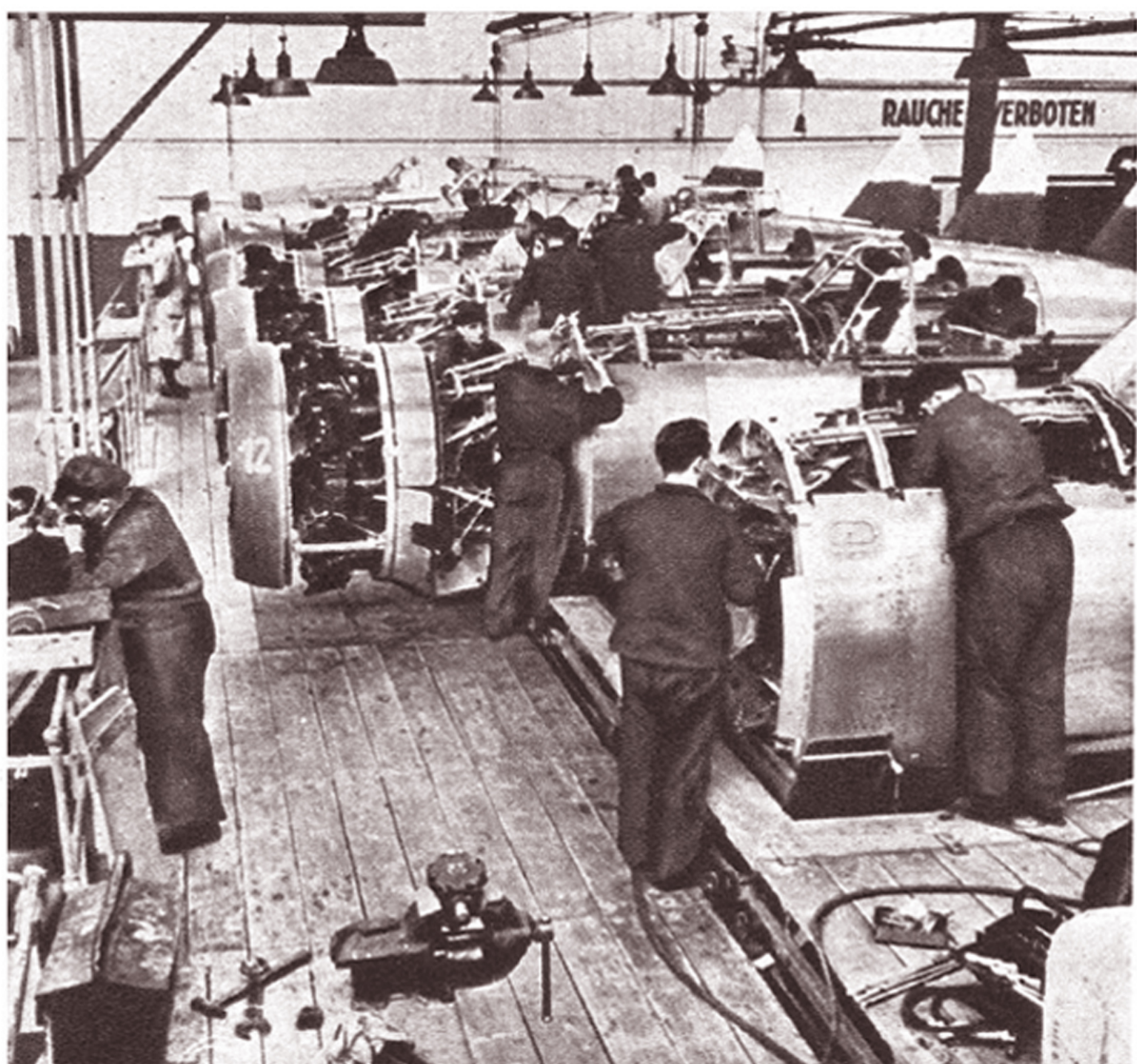
On Nov. 8, 1942, the day the U. S. invaded Africa, Hitler boasted that his armies held Stalingrad: "One can trust me. Whatever we have we hold firmly and nobody gets a place where we already are." Three months later he decreed "official mourning" for 300,000 men who died at Stalingrad. The Nazis asked relatives "not to inquire about the individual soldier's fate, for it would hinder the Luftwaffe in its rescue of the 47,000 wounded." Special radio appeals urged women to "banish the question, *Why did this happen?*" That such broadcasts were necessary proved that the Germans are beginning to ask questions.



**AIR ATTACK HAS COME TO GERMANY.** The hub of Berlin's rail communications, her factories and power works, the industrial Rhineland and the Ruhr, Essen, Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven have all been hit by millions of pounds of bombs. As Germans see the Luftwaffe helpless, their thoughts and memories must be bitter. In August, 1939, Goering said: "As Reichminister for air I have convinced myself personally of the measures taken to protect the Ruhr from air attack. I will look after every battery, for we will not expose the Ruhr to a *single enemy bomb.*" In October, 1942, this same "protector" could only threaten *reprisals* as soon as the war in the East would be won.

Hitler believed he could terrorize defenseless cities with immunity, but now that his policy comes home to roost his broadcasts blame the British. His ravings indicate the Germans hear the bombs warning: "The end is near. Your suffering will grow each day that you serve Hitler. We have sworn to crush Nazism in every form and we shall." Every German is aware that the Nazis have obviously over-estimated their power, lulling the people into a feeling of false security.





**GERMAN WORKERS LABOR LONG HOURS.** This was inadvertently revealed by a propaganda broadcast on January 27, 1943, called "Reflections of Germany" which presented an unrehearsed interview with a woman worker in a factory. Part of her answers: *"I work ten hours a day and three Sundays a month. And I am 53 years old, too. In addition, I have my housework to do."* The questioner, embarrassed, turned to the foreman who tried to explain, "We have worked without drawing a breath for several years. As a political leader I realize that we have to work at the present rate to provide weapons for our brave soldiers."

Soon after labor chief Sauckel decreed compulsory work registration in January, 1943, Economics Minister Funk ordered the closing down of one third of all German retail stores. But the people surely noticed that only small businesses were affected by this order, although the original twenty-one point Nazi party program had promised the abolition of chain stores and "big capital." Developments such as this indicate that the average German has to work harder for a lower standard of living. Naturally, any people would object to that.



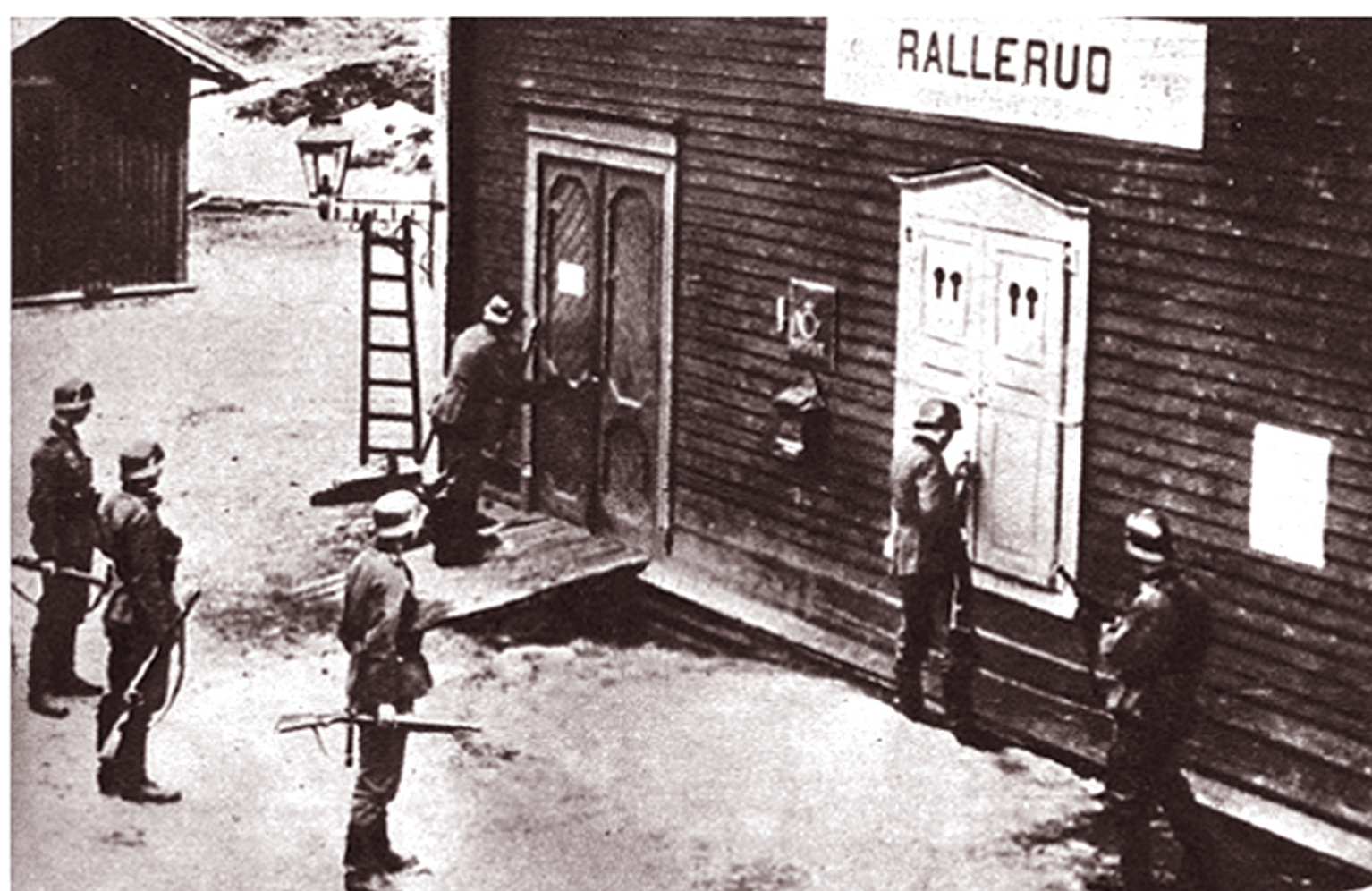
**AMERICAN TROOPS LAND IN NORTH AFRICA,** a first step toward that second front which has always haunted the German High Command and is in the mind of every German. Gauleiter Wagner scornfully at-

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tacks those Germans "who are ready to run when a few Americans appear 1500 kilometers away." German thoughts turn irresistibly to 1918. They have never forgotten what American power meant then; wonder what it will mean now. The day of the North African landing, Hitler screamed that "the old crook Roosevelt is the chief gangster we have to face." He promised the people were well protected by the greatest military machine. But other promises have been unfulfilled.

Early this March Goebbels, in his weekly magazine *Das Reich*, took up again the question of 25 years ago and today. This time, he claimed, the people are firmly behind the Fuehrer and inspired to an unconquerable will for victory. Nazi propagandists fight constantly against the memory of 1918 in the minds of Germans. They plead, scold and threaten. But no amount of talking can alter the facts or prevent the uncensorable thought that history can repeat itself.



**TERRORIZING EUROPE'S CONQUERED NATIONS**, the Nazi legions padlock railway stations (above), close schools, inflict curfews and enforce sadistic restrictions. Hate surrounds Germans. The Nazi party welcomes this reaction because it "proves" to the average German that he must fight to the end and thus save his own skin. Party big-wigs scream over the radio about the "barbarous Bolsheviks," the "terror raids" of the Anglo-Americans, the "Jewish plot to sterilize and exterminate the German nation." But one fact they try to hide—European resistance and hatred for *Nazism*. For they know the Germans are wondering: "Is Europe against us, or only against the Nazi party?"

Besides being surrounded by enemies, the Germans have imported four million Nazi-haters to Germany proper. On Feb. 11, 1943, Berlin radio announced that "in 1942 there were three million foreign workers employed in Germany, double the number of 1941." Nazi forced labor increased in 1943 and is conservatively estimated at four million. Four million alien slaves, burning with hate, walk the streets of Germany.



**THE DESTRUCTION OF HITLER GERMANY** rather than the German people is the plan discussed by Churchill and Stalin. "What will become of

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us if we lose this war?" Germans are thinking. President Roosevelt answered plainly on October 7th, 1942: "It is not the intention of this government or of the governments associated with us to resort to mass reprisals. It is our intention that just and sure punishment be meted out to the ringleaders."

These words struck home, Nazi propagandists reveal. Goering's paper, the *Essener Nationalzeitung*, writes: "No German can escape by saying 'in my heart I was always a democrat and hated the Nazis, only I was unable to show my real sympathies.' In the eyes of international Jewry every German will be guilty. Therefore the Germans will be much better off if they fight the war to a finish with the Nazis, whether they like them or not."

In this battle for the German mind Stalin, too, made it clear that "it is not our aim to destroy Germany, but the Hitlerites must be destroyed." Hitler speaks of a thousand-year Reich, but the United Nations know, Stalin said, that Hitlers come and go, while the German people remain. Thus our leaders give the Germans food for thought.



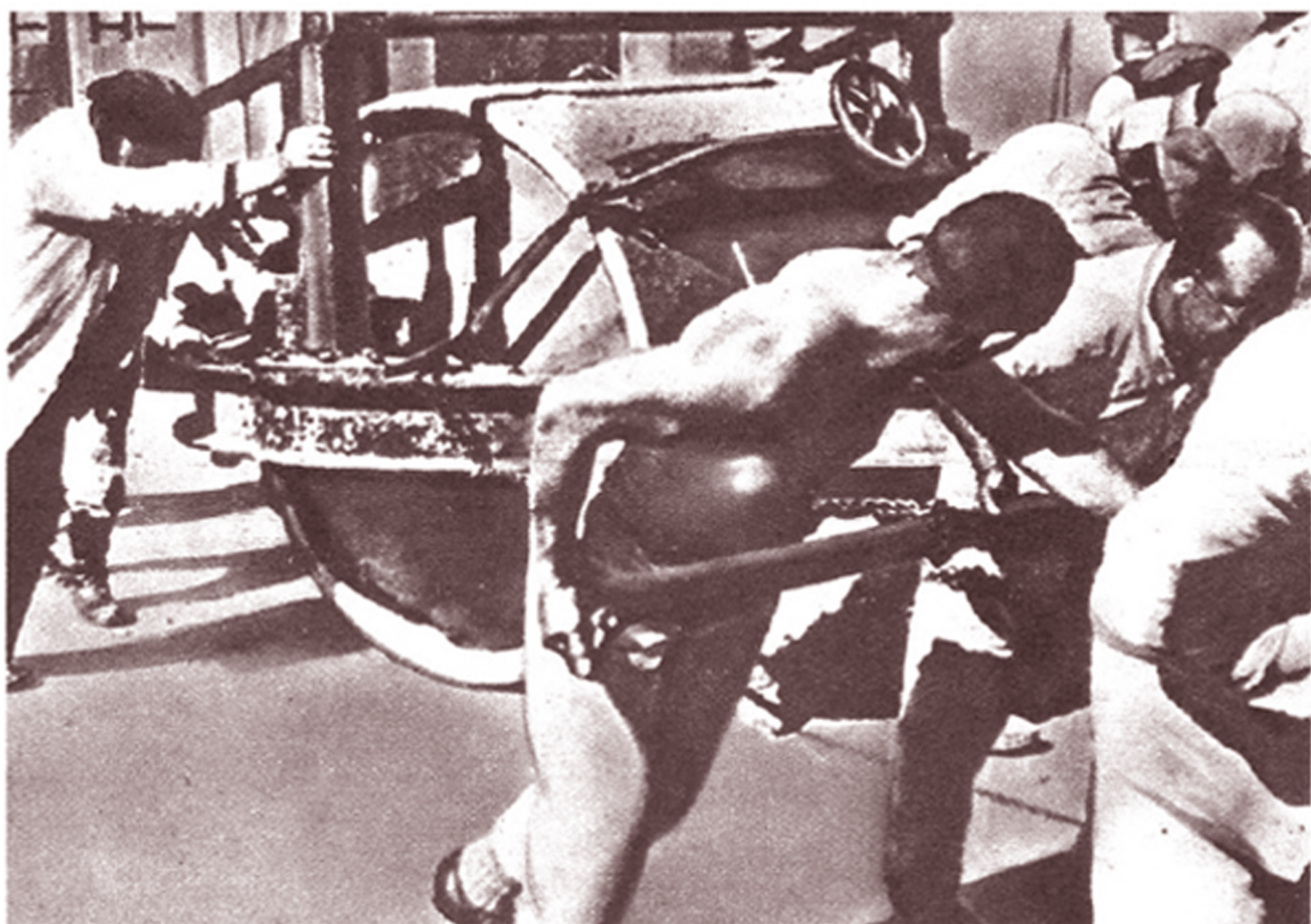
**THESE GERMAN PRISONERS IN RUSSIA** are signing an appeal to their comrades to stop the atrocities of the German army. Other prisoners sent 190 delegates to a conference which called on the Germans to overthrow Hitler. Said Unteroffizier Kurt Langmach, of the 293rd Artillery Regiment: "We shall do everything to help establish a free Germany." Military defeat has broken the chains of ignorance and fear which shackled the German mind. Freed from Nazi influence, some prisoners know what the people back home mean when they write: "If it depended on us, everything would be over today. That's the wish of all of us."

Many Nazi soldiers remain true to their beliefs even in imprisonment, although the most fanatic of them could hardly remain unmoved at the letter Willie Mueller (No. 21802) received from his sister: "Mother wrote you that Kurt won't return any more. First Rudi, then Willi severely wounded, now Kurt. I don't know what to say. You are now my only brother. I am fed up with everything. I am always depressed and if anything should happen to you I might do something terrible."

**Nazi Propaganda Promises the  
Master Race Conquest of World**

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**CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND HARD LABOR** are the lot of Germans who continue to oppose the Nazis despite a decade of ruthless persecution. Two million passed through prisons and concentration camps, hundreds of thousands are still there. Nevertheless, Goebbels still has reason to warn: "Against saboteurs of our war effort we will know how to proceed with the hardest penalties." Germans who hate the Nazis, love peace and freedom, received blunt warning when Dr. Thierack, minister of justice, threatened early this year: "The laws of war are inexorable, and their severity must be applied unsparingly to all traitors. Such incorrigible criminals must be annihilated." The very fact that such warnings are still necessary indicates to allied propaganda analysts that the Nazis have not succeeded in eradicating opposition within the Reich.

Friends of the United Nations inside Germany organize secretly to end Nazi rule. Only recently a pamphlet has reached the U. S., with the manifesto of a secret conference in the Rhineland in Dec. 1942. It urged Germans to "rise in the struggle for peace and freedom"

**THE FARCE OF A UNIFIED EUROPE** is staged in Berlin by lavishly entertaining the various quislings, such as the Croatian puppet Ante Pavelitch (left) being received by Nazi foreign minister von Ribbentrop (right). German leaders periodically summon their stooges to Berlin to show that "national Europe has today gathered, brothers-in-arms, around the German armed forces" (Berlin radio, Feb. 16, 1943). They want the German people to think that the Nazis, and not the United Nations, will create a post-war community and a better world.

The enemy rarely ridicules the Atlantic Charter. Nazis know the appeal of the "four freedoms" for the common people. Instead, Berlin screams: "The Atlantic Charter is a cloak to hide America's intention to rule the world, by lend-lease debt slavery." Goebbels constantly warns that "Bolshevism is the danger of dangers." The German people hunger for a just world almost as much as they fear destruction. So the Nazis seek to offer a platform of their own. Said Alfred Rosenberg on March 7, 1943: "In National Socialist Germany alone has social justice arisen."



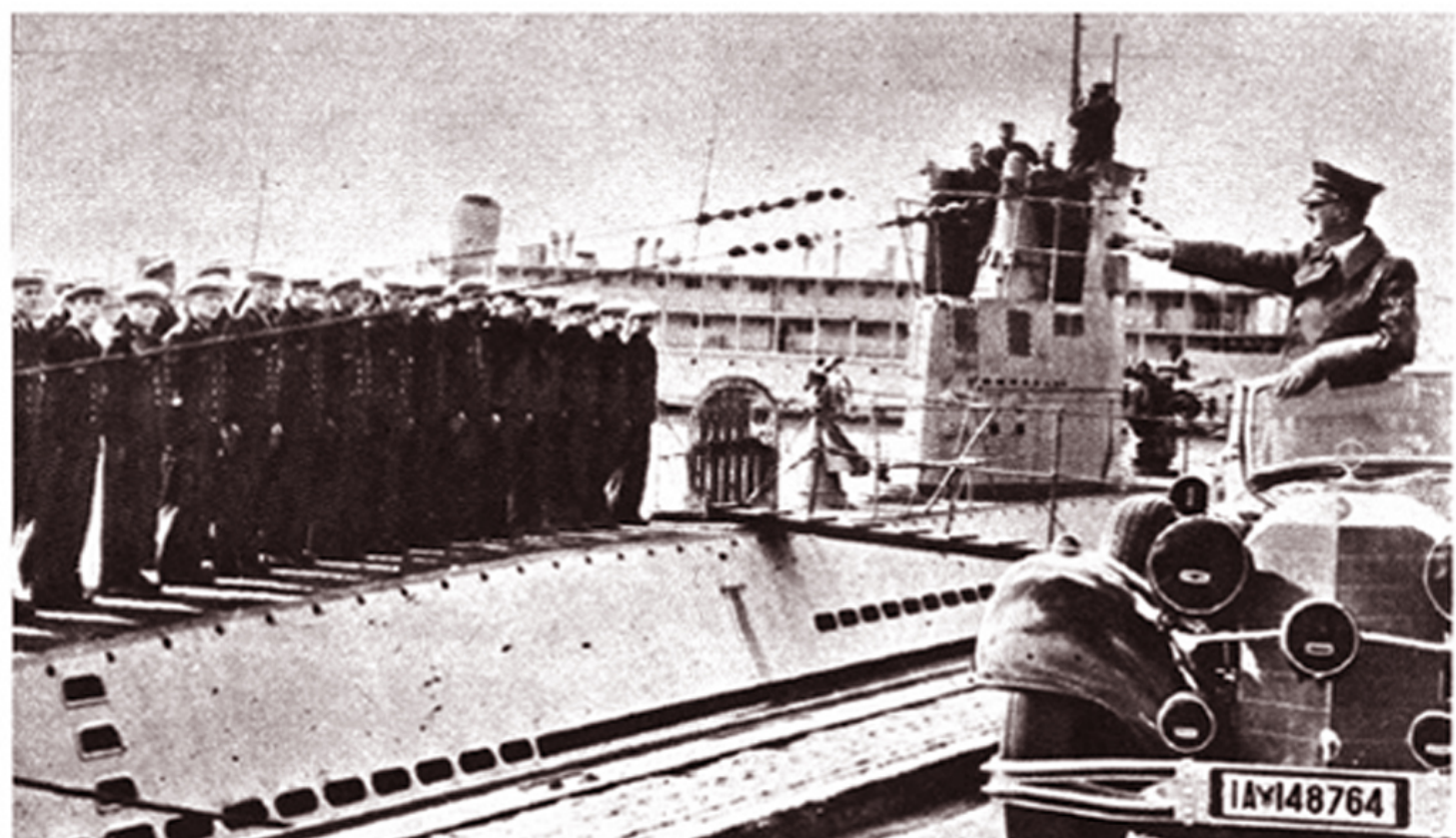




**PREJUDICE, HATRED AND IGNORANCE** are the weapons used by Dr. Goebbels, Minister for "Peoples Enlightenment and Propaganda," to spur the Germans in the Nazi war of conquest. Hitler revealed his gamble for world domination in its full brutality when he proclaimed on Jan. 30, 1943: "From this war will not emerge victors and vanquished, but only survivors and *those who perished.*"

The Nazis seek to involve as many Germans as possible in their crimes knowing that fear of the world's revenge is the firmest bond between this gang of criminals. German propagandists seek to dispel all traces of human decency by hammering into the German mind: He who is not with us is against us, and helps to destroy the very life of every German. Men who believe this know no restraint. Physical extermination of the enemy is dictated by the cold-blooded logic of the ideas proclaimed by Hitler and Goebbels.

Promises of a Third Reich, a New Order, a New Europe and a "better world of peace, security and justice" are held out to the people. The fact the Nazis keep repeating these promises proves oppression and enslavement need sugar-coating to succeed even temporarily. They must raise hopes for such un-dictatorial privileges as justice, peace.



**THE U-BOAT WILL SPELL ALLIED DEFEAT.** That is Adolf Hitler's message to a nation which saw its air force beaten by England and its armies battered in Russia. A "Special Communique from the Fuehrer's Headquarters" blares forth from Nazi loudspeakers. Drums and fanfares herald fantastic claims of ship sinkings on the seven seas, telling Germans that, no matter whether bombs fall and millions die in battle, the enemy will be beaten by Germany's "secret weapon."

Throughout the summer of 1942 German broadcasts asserted that "the tonnage losses inflicted upon the Anglo-American merchant fleet will prevent Britain and America from launching their much-heralded second front." But 750 ships brought American troops to Africa despite U-boats. Admiral Luetzow had to explain to Germany that it was not surprising the allied convoys had got through "in view of the wide expanse of the oceans." The Nazis want the people to think only of U-boat successes. But the African landings, the bombings and the defeats in the East are not easily driven out of the German mind.

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**APPEASEMENT IS THE SECRET NAZI HOPE** as it becomes obvious that the Germans cannot beat the world coalition the Nazis have called forth against themselves. Then they send out men like Rudolf Hess (above) who once addressed meetings as Hitler's deputy but now is a prisoner in England. He was sent there to try the Nazis' oldest trick: an appeal for "solidarity" in the face of the "Bolshevist peril." Germans remember the success of appeasement in the days of Munich and the series of "bloodless" victories. Hitler still hopes he can once more divide his enemies inside and outside Germany and distract them from the Nazi threat. Said Goebbels on Feb. 3, 1943: "Perhaps there are even in London a few clear-thinking men who could imagine what would happen if Germany were overwhelmed by the Reds." Or, as Nazi broadcasters to America put it: "The German army is actually defending you, thousands of miles away, against Bolshevism." The Casablanca demand for "unconditional surrender" buried this last of Goebbels' hopes. The United Nations have learned there is no choice but to stand together or go down together.

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