

# GERMANS UNDER U.S. RULE: THE BATTLE AGAINST WANT

## American Zone's Prospect of Worst Hunger and Cold in Centuries



NAZIS WORK WITH SHOVELS



BOYS PLAY WITH NAZI SWORDS

... life for the German is bleak—for his conquerors, perplexing

### Handicaps in low output, meager transport and lack of non-Nazi administrators

It now becomes possible to look inside the American zone of Germany and see how Germans are faring under military occupation, how Americans are getting along in their new role of conquerors. The result is a story of unmeasured hardship for the vanquished, of difficult, perplexing responsibilities for the victor.

The following account of life within the American zone of occupation in Germany is drawn from official Army records, a 95,000-word report compiled by Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, Military Governor of the American zone, detailing the progress of occupation after six months. The Clay report deals only with the American zone. It shows:

**Defeat**, to the German civilian, has brought a bewildering paradox. People have money, but there is nothing to buy. Millions are without work, but there is a labor shortage hampering essential pro-

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### DISPLACED GERMAN Chief source of unrest

youth is growing disorderly, demonstrating against the friendship between German women and American soldiers. Handbills threatening "faithless" German girls have appeared. An occasional U. S. soldier has been attacked. Nowhere has smoldering unrest flamed into general disturbance, but occupation leaders wonder if it will come as the winter privation grows sharper and the restless people grow bolder.

Germans in the U. S. zone have been granted the right to organize political parties and move toward democratic self-government. But, in a country dominated for years by dictatorship, political expression is slow to stir. A few parties have been formed, but there is no mass political movement among the people. The Clay report says the German public obviously is "psychologically unready for self-government and ignorant of democratic processes."

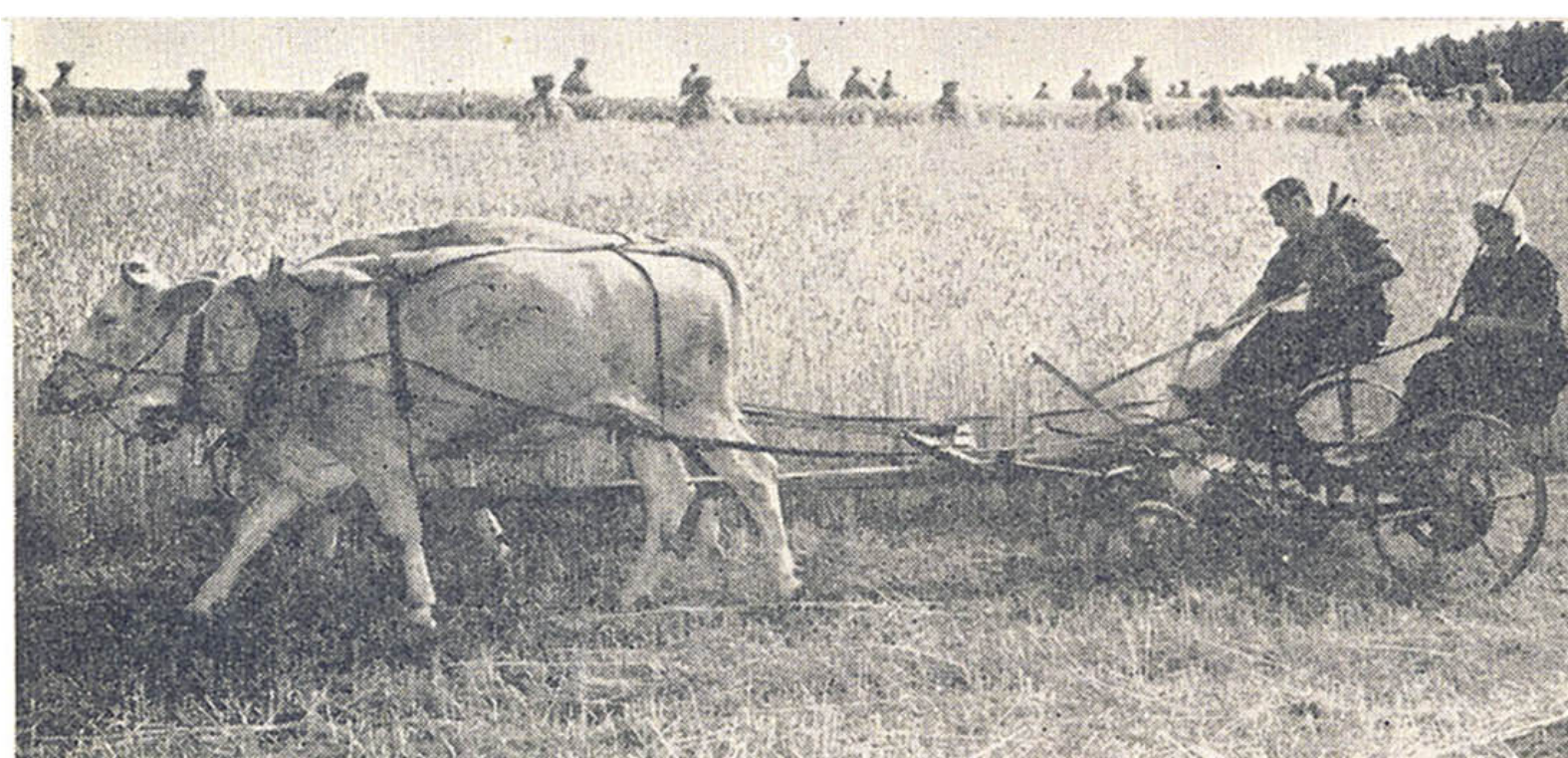
The day when Germans will govern themselves still is far away. Until then, they must live under enemy occupation. Here is a view of that life after six months:



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### FARMER, WIFE AND FOOD

... something new has been added to the population curve

**Hunger and want** are gnawing, ever-present facts. By September, 60 per cent of the population was living on a sub-standard diet. Daily meals are 500 to 1,000 calories short of minimum health needs. Only those with the means to trade in the black market get sufficient food to ward off the threat of malnutrition and disease.

Farming is well advanced. But inadequate transportation hampers distribution of foodstuffs. This winter, there will be practically no coal deliveries. To city people, this means both a lack of heat and a lack of means for cooking. Mass feeding is a certainty. The food lines already planned are intended to assure every German a just share of the food supply. Each will pay for his meal with cash and ration points.

**The homeless** German refugees and displaced persons, thousands of sullen people without shelter or means of support, are Germany's chief source of unrest. There have been cases of murder and organized looting committed by the homeless. Marauding gangs intimidate the countryside, raiding and stealing.

Repatriation to the homelands whence they came is solving the problem of the displaced persons. By December, all but 250,000 in the American zone will be gone. But the German refugees remain. Their movements from place to place overtax the meager transportation, put a strain on limited food and shelter. For the refugees, the Clay report says frankly the winter ahead means "extreme hardship and suffering," even when measured with the serious plight of the more fortunate, settled German civilian.

**Health** conditions are not now alarming, but the lack of adequate diet is a potential danger. The seeds of widespread tuberculosis infection developed as Germans were bombed out of their homes and forced into privation before defeat. Now the disease is on the increase. The rate of diphtheria and typhoid fever has gone up since occupation began; the venereal rate has dropped. Children of displaced families are being inoculated against diph-

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theria. Smallpox and typhoid vaccines are administered at assembly points for the homeless.

In general, the public-health situation now is not such as to endanger either German civilians as a whole, or occupation troops. The winter ahead will be the test.

**Education.** Slowly, Germany's primary schools are reopening, but juvenile unruliness remains a problem. It stems largely from the breakdown of parental controls and from the return to civilian life of young German soldiers. Thousands of young people roam the streets. To the Military Government, the reopening of schools for 1,200,000 small children has meant the beginning of re-education for German youth. But 500,000 primary pupils have not yet been able to return to classes. There is a shortage of qualified teachers. Nazis are barred, and in many schools Nazis made up 85 per cent of the faculty. Until substitutes can be trained, schooling will move slowly.

**Religious freedom** is returning. During September, the few remaining Jews of Germany celebrated their High Holy Days for the first time since the Nazis came to power. But the scars of Nazism were on the celebration. In many communities, not enough rescued Jews could be found to carry on the ceremony. There was a lack of rabbis. In some cases services could be conducted only by using prayer books and shawls borrowed from American Army chaplains.

Other religions, those not directly suppressed by the Nazis, are showing new development. In some cases, congregations, on their own initiative, have purged their churches of Nazi clergymen.

**A free press** has been reborn, but it is hampered by a paper shortage and by transportation difficulties which restrict circulation. There are 13 newspapers being published in the American zone, five of them issued by the Military Government, but each of the 13 is limited to one or two editions a week. Three thousand book dealers have been licensed, but their shelves are empty. Nazi books have been removed. Germany, hungry for information now, awaits a new literature.

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**The economic level** of affairs in Germany has been impaired for years, not only by the terms of surrender and occupation, but by the war itself. One example: The bombing and destruction of German cities forced millions of persons out of industrial areas. Now, in Germany, the rural population is increasing while the population of cities is on the decline. That trend is directly the reverse of the situation in the U.S. and in other industrial nations. This shift to a rural population will have a lingering effect on Germany's efforts to rehabilitate herself.

Economic conditions within the American zone demonstrate that it will be years before Germany can reach the "average living standards not exceeding the average of standards of living of European countries," promised by the Potsdam Agreement. The destruction of industry by war and reparations will prolong the period of reconstruction for years.

**Industry** now averages less than 5 per cent of capacity production. Metals plants, relatively undamaged by war, are restricted by a fuel shortage. Production of chemicals is less than 5 per cent of undamaged plant capacity. Gas production is practically nonexistent. Building materials are produced at a rate sufficient only to meet the barest military and essential civilian needs.

**Labor** is short at a time when millions of Germans are unemployed. A reason for the paradox is that money has become almost worthless because of the shortage of goods. Men will work for food. Cash means but little. There is nothing to buy with it. Even the most meager income gives the workingman more money than he can spend legally. Increased food rations for heavy workers are being used to induce labor into vital jobs.

**Transportation** is reopening, somewhat, for civilians. Ninety per cent of main-line railroad trackage is in working order. Motor transport now is 85 per cent of estimated requirements. But the shortage of fuel and essential accessories is acute.

**Denazification.** First objective of the American occupation has been to rip up the roots of Nazism. The result, in some instances, has been to slow efforts to make Germany self-sustaining. Nazis controlled Germany's Government, industry, labor, education, information. Now it is a job to find competent public servants for the most ordinary civil tasks. Industries are bereft of the Nazi management which made them go. There are not enough school teachers. If all Nazis had been taken from railroad jobs at once, the trans-

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portation system would have broken down.

**Self-government** is coming slowly to the German people, again because defeat has forced out the men who ruled her for more than a decade. Germans now lack the urge to govern themselves. The Military Government plans to relinquish its supervision as soon as areas are capable of handling their own affairs. By spring, free elections, first in 12 years, will have been held for all the lower levels of government. But, far reaching as that step is, it is only a beginning toward eventual self-government.

**Long-range goal** of occupation in the American zone, thus, can be summarized in this pattern: To eliminate all remnants of Nazi influence, re-educate the German people, supervise the rehabilitation of a ruined economy and the reorganization of government along democratic lines. With that tremendous goal to attain, it now becomes clear that the end of occupation is not in sight.

