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Inside the Enemy Lines: What Our Envoys Saw

**Italy's disillusionment
over war. Will to win
still ruling Germany**

Hunger and hatred rule the Europe of Hitler's New Order. That is the story 250 Americans are bringing back from their five-month internment in Germany and Italy. They found these war twins hiding in odd corners in Germany, showing themselves openly in Italy, shouting loudly in the occupied countries, ready to play a grim part in determining the outcome of the war.

In Germany, a double-ration card failed to give American diplomats enough to eat. They arrived in Lisbon to board the aged Swedish-American liner *Drottningholm* dirty and hungry. In Italy, prison wardens, secret police, shop girls, grocery clerks asked to be remembered with love to their relatives in the United States. In Milan, a spontaneous hunger march set crowds swarming through the streets shouting: "Stop the war and give our children bread." The Italian police stood aside. German storm troopers stopped the march.

By day and by night, hunger and hatred stalk the occupied countries. They show themselves in night stabbings, the flash of gunfire from ambush in broad daylight, the bombing of a hotel, the dynamiting of a train, the rounding up of hostages to be shot or hanged. In Greece, hungry stevedores had to be fed before they were able to unload a cargo of food for the starving who had crowded the docks to wait.

Even the quick passage of the American diplomats through France gave them a glimpse of the hatred that lies there waiting for a spark. South of Paris—before they reached the domain of Vichy to pick up Ambassador William D. Leahy—a Frenchman threw a rock through the window of their diner on the theory that there was where he might hit Germans. Trainmen said it often happened. A French peasant waved an American flag. A French airman stole aboard the train, urged quick American help. Barmen, shopkeepers complained that everything was being reserved for Germans.

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AMBASSADOR LEAHY

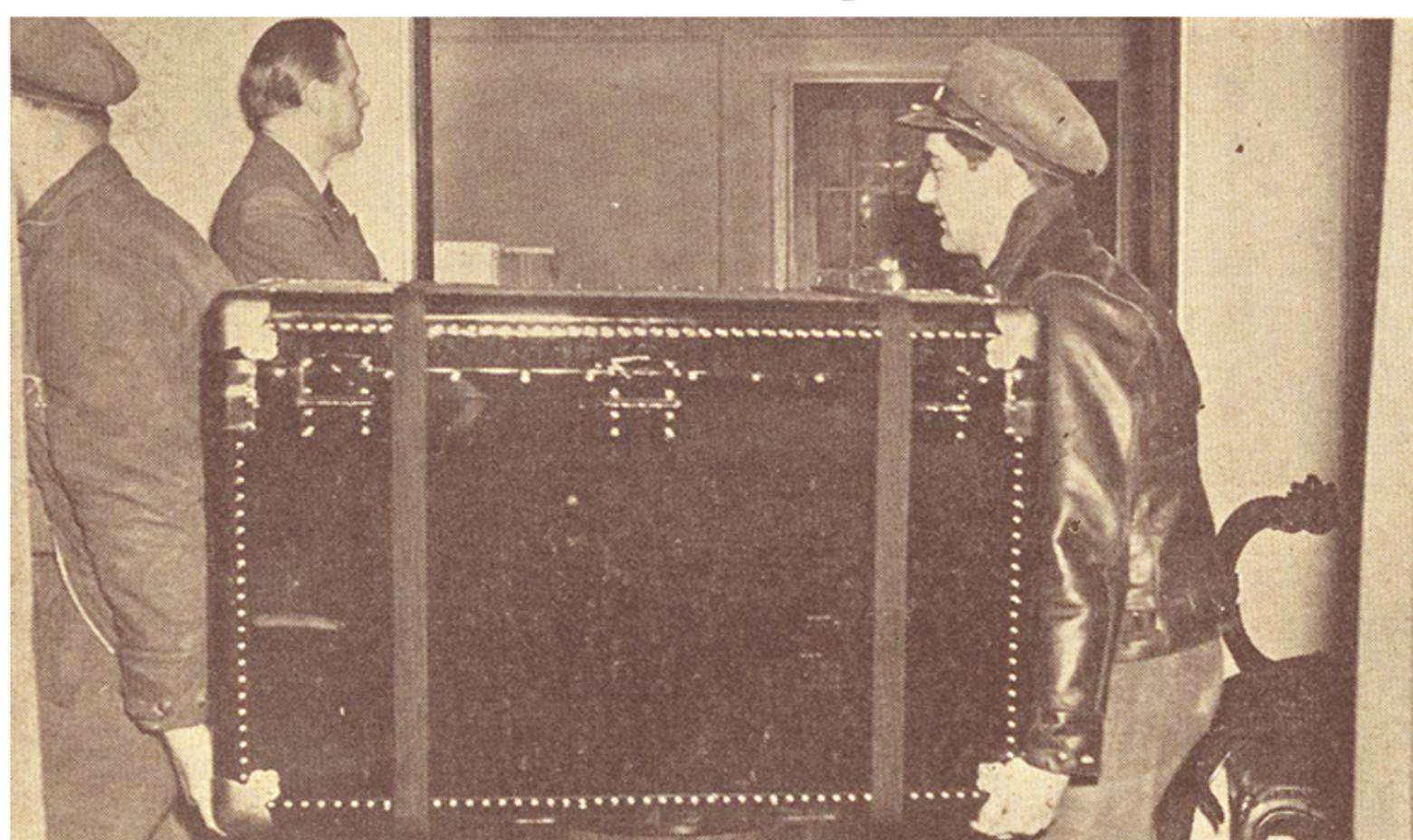
He left a nation of hate

What effect will this state of mind have on the ultimate outcome? The reports of the diplomats are being added to those from listening posts and intelligence workers of all kinds in seeking the answer. Here, the background of experience the diplomats have had inside Germany and Italy counts for more than the odd bits of smuggled information they were able to pick up during their internment in Rome and Bad Nauheim.

It adds up to: Germany will fight on. Her people are disappointed, did not want war with the United States, have little individual freedom left, have fewer illusions about Hitler than they once had, have no faith in their Italian partner. But they are not near an internal crack-up. Their power is not to be discounted. They still pack a powerful punch in their armies. Bitter hatreds lie between the Nazis and the Army command. But the will of both is to fight, and for the people there is no present way of turning back.

Italians see no hope for themselves if Germany wins. Germans are steadily taking over internal affairs. Italy's industry is being geared to that of Germany. Italy's plight is little less humiliating to the Italian people than that of France to the French. Prior to December 7, Italians saw no hope if Great Britain won. Now their hope for an Italian future is for the Allies to win and America to dominate the peace.

These feelings are not concealed. A German newspaper says that every time Germans and Italians meet they are rude to each other. It urges the Italians to learn to be tactful and polite, does not imply that Germans are ever otherwise. But Italians see Mussolini, at the dictate of Ger-



EX-ENVOY THOMSEN: He complained to the Fuehrer

many, order all Jews in Rome—male and female—between 18 and 55 to work or stand trial by court-martial. They see German banks systematically take over Italian business and industry, place Germans in control.

Some returning Americans said half of the Italian people would welcome an Allied invasion of the continent, that they would spring to the aid of American and British troops in the greatest uprising in history the moment a landing was made on Italian soil. But there are strong deterring influences. All persons who might lead such an uprising have been systematically weeded out and packed off to concentration camps. The German spy system penetrates to all corners of Italy. Despite the fact that lack of fuel and shortage of materials for repairs immobilize the Italian fleet most of the time, German specialists, particularly gunners, have been fed into the crews of most Italian ships. Germany is well aware of the mood of the Italian people.

Hitler's over-all problems, with such an ally at his side, increased tremendously during the winter. His talk of the severity of the Russian winter was not just an alibi. The cold hurt civilians and cut crop prospects all over Europe. He has a shortage of workers in Germany and elsewhere. He has too little food, in spite of what he takes from occupied countries. He has untold problems of transportation and internal dissension.

The recent speech of Hermann Goering, broadcast as it was over long wave for local German consumption, gave not only a glimpse of what the German soldier encountered in Russia last winter, but was intended to goad the German worker to driving himself to the utmost. Marshal Goering drew a contrast between German and Russian workers:

“Over there the situation is quite different. Not out of noble feelings for their people, fatherland and leaders are they working over there so frantically, but only because the human being means nothing there, because the worker there is nothing



EX-GERMAN SOLDIER: He had no one to complain to

but a slave to be driven; and the millions and millions, if they die and collapse, new millions are whipped over them, and only with machine guns and whips can the workers of Soviet Russia be driven to their work stations.”

Of troubles yet to come: “I should only like to beg of Providence a hardening to a greater and greater extent of each individual at home, and that he will say to himself: ‘We must hold out in this war irrespective of how long it may last; at the end there is victory and that alone is of decisive importance.’ . . . In the future let it be said that the German people was certain of victory for it took hardship upon itself. Of each of you individuals of the home front, I demand the same hardness as is displayed out there at the fighting lines.”

The background for this speech had been a 1940 of successes, a promise by Hitler of the greatest victory in history in 1941, then a warning from Hitler to get ready for a prolonged conflict, and, now, an appeal from Goering for desperate effort. The winter had been cruel. In North Germany, the soil was frozen three feet deep. Fuel had been rationed. Warm clothes were stripped from civilians and sent to Russia. Mid-April had been so cold farmers could not open potato pits for fear of frost damage. Little farm work could be done until May.

All over Europe, the winter had cut deeply into an already scant food supply. Some farmers were eating seed grain. Finnish farmers were unable to get enough seeds for root vegetables. The Finnish meat ration was being halved. A rumor that a shipment of oranges had gone to a few privileged persons was hotly denied: only a few oranges had arrived and these had gone to children’s hospitals. Italy, a land of wine drinkers, promised civilians only what wine was left after “major groups” were satisfied. The major groups included German visitors.

Bucharest cut sugar again, allowed white bread to go only to children under five. Norwegian farmers were holding corn out of the market. Half of all the food coming into France from North Africa was being taken by the Germans: 20 per cent for Italy and 30 per cent for the German army of occupation. Even in Switzerland, a neu-

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tral country crowded with health seekers from other nations, cattle were killed because of a shortage of fodder. It had fewer cattle than in 1918.

Transportation also troubled Hitler. Germany claimed it needed twice as many freight cars this spring as last. But the RAF has been smashing locomotives by flying low. The severe Russian winter had got many: 600 destroyed between January and March, 3,000 temporarily put out of commission. Only the Russian locomotives were prepared for continuous hard frost.

Inside his own ranks, Hitler has had difficulties. The most rampant secret radio voice in Europe is called "The Voice of the Chief." Its broadcasts are long wave, for German listening. It is strongly pro-German, for Germany, for the war, for the Army High Command. But it minces no words in calling the Nazis names. So successful has "The Chief" been in eluding the Gestapo, that Americans believe it is operated under the protection of the Army High Command.

In the occupied countries, starvation and killings have reached such a peak that a Swedish newspaper said: "The Hitlerite New Order has created a hell on earth for European people. Hatred for the invader grows with every day." And this was the picture American diplomats brought home after five months under Gestapo guns. They did not complain of their treatment, however, as had the returning German envoy, Hans Thomsen. The Germans had not liked being guarded by Jews and Negroes. The Americans had been a little hungry, but they figured the Germans had tried to feed them. The food was just not to be had.

The United States News