

GERMANY'S UNDERGROUND WANTS WAR

BY SIGRID SCHULTZ

Germany is full of people who see a war between the U.S. and Russia as the best answer to their hopes. These include ex-Nazis who still retain amazing power, fanatical anti-Communists and a mess of royalists, Junkers, and political hacks

EIGHT thousand kids squealed with joy as fifty motorcyclists in bright red pants careened over the green fields of the Polo Grounds at Berlin's Olympic Stadium with one foot on the saddle and the other stuck out in the air. The squeals turned into shouts of delight as a clown came weaving on a tiny, twisted bicycle, tumbling about, vainly trying to emulate the performance of the crack motorcade. From the top rows of the galleries came the loud guffaws of young fellows in British khaki.

In the tense, bitter atmosphere of Berlin, this joint laughter of children under fourteen and young English soldiers seemed the first genuine peace demonstration since the end of World War II. Though the children's elders fiercely resented the show staged by the British, the youngsters forgot their teachings of hatred at the first opportunity.

But will the warmongers of today, in Germany and in other countries, give these kids a chance to grow up in a peaceful world?

As I watched them, I kept remembering an incident in a villa in Lichterfelde, a suburb in the American sector of the German capital. A group of successful Berlin businessmen were being entertained there, when their host startled them by saying, "The broadcasts of the corpse of Hitler are more interesting than anything you can hear nowadays."

Conversation had been dull up to that moment. But the minute the host trotted out the ghost of Adolf Hitler the atmosphere changed. Those who had never heard of the clandestine broadcasts of a man who claimed to be the "living corpse" of Hitler clamored for information.

At that time, little was known about him. It turned out later that he was a young Socialist, whose main purpose in taking to the air was to trade invective with Communists. Their sport has since been stopped.

With zest the dozen Germans present launched into discussions about secret broadcasts. Thus, two years after the end of the war, these university-trained, well-to-do non-Nazi Germans still indulged in whispering campaigns reminiscent of the Hitler era. Nobody talked of the vital news of the day that had appeared in the papers. Why?

An embarrassed silence greeted my question.

The meek-seeming little man whom I had known as a brave anti-Nazi during the war spoke up, "We were led so many lies by (Continued on page 74)

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the Nazis that we got into the habit of distrusting the papers and the big radio stations. We searched for clandestine sources of information. Confidence in the available papers, in the official broadcasting stations has not returned." But to judge by the faces of his friends, that was not the truth.

"Why should we believe what is printed in papers, what is said over the radio as long as foreigners decide what can be told to the German people?" growled the wealthy grain dealer.

Then the banker added, "We have our own means of information, our own news network. That tells us more than the papers do."

In the Throes of War Hysteria

Out of the men's pockets and women's bags came notes and letters and mimeographed slips. These were read aloud to the party. They were all about troop movements and war material. For one who had watched war hysteria sweep over Germany in Nazi days, this seemed like a nightmare. Most of the news items were mere hearsay, gathered on street-cars, on trains from anonymous sources, from insurance offices.

"Don't you realize that if these anonymous scraps of news should prove true, they would mean war?" I asked.

"Why, certainly," the host replied calmly, "and the quicker it comes, the better it will be." The banker and his wife hastened to assure me that the thought did not really please them: "But one must be realistic about such things."

Did they realize what atomic warfare meant? Yes, they did, but, said one of the guests complacently, "Germany won't be the next battlefield. The war will be fought in the Near East. Others will do the fighting. We'll provide volunteers, and our factories will produce weapons, as the so-called neutrals did in World War II." Naturally since an American was present, they said that all volunteers and war potential would go to the Western powers, in the war that "must" come.

The party then proceeded to list alleged Russian positions in Germany, from which, they said, the Russians were ready to fire new, deadlier rockets, developed by German scientists, at England and probably at the United States.

"Americans don't like the idea of war," said the banker somewhat scornfully; "they won't have to take the initiative because the Russians will start the war." He and his friends knew the date of the attack. It would start "after the potatoes have been harvested." All summer long, other warmongers had been predicting similar dates.

The cry for war is loudest in Berlin, but it can be heard in all other parts of Germany. It is swelled by many of the 12,800,000 refugees in Germany who

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Some Allied officers and soldiers repeat the slogan of German fanatics, "War is unavoidable." Usually they have quite an array of German friends, who have worked overtime to influence them and then to see that their views get ample circulation. Consequently, when you travel through Germany you can collect the wildest rumors based on an initial statement by an American, Russian, British or French national. These rumors, of course, horrify those Americans, Russians, Britons or Frenchmen who realize that there is no short cut to peace, that it must be built up bit by bit, and who are working to build it.

International labor joins in the fray. Communist agents travel through all zones of Germany cleverly exploiting the hardships of the population to win sympathy for the Moscow cause.

Pronouncements by the vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, Matthew Woll, play an important role in the "get ready for war" campaign. Hundreds of thousands of organized workers in the Ruhr and in western Germany have been flooded with photostatic copies of Woll's editorials in the International Free Trade News. (Photostatic copies are expensive. Who paid for them?) The Germans take Woll's statements to mean that "Germany must rearm for the coming war against Communism." Why bother with peace problems if the big brother from America says that war is coming?

At least three varieties of warmongers are at work in the dynamite keg that is the Germany of today:

1.) The disappointed German patriots who rub their hands in glee at the thought of a possible clash between the former Allies. They are the least dangerous.

2.) Camouflaged Nazis and militarists who seek to regain the power they lost, were expelled from the former eastern provinces and from the countries that the Hitler hordes invaded with the help of German minorities.

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2.) Camouflaged Nazis and militarists who seek to regain the power they lost, by helping to precipitate the war between the East and the West. They know that this time they have lost their hold on the German people because of the decisive military defeat they suffered. They also know that for a long time to come, their finest talk about new deadly weapons won't drive the Germans into a war.

The fanatic old-timers also know that it is not enough again to convince Westerners that Germany is the bulwark against Communism, and Easterners that she is the first line of defense against capitalism. This time they have teams of German military scientists in both the Russian and Anglo-American camps, helping to devise and manufacture new deadlier weapons. When the war they want breaks out, the German team on the winning side expects to enjoy the gratitude of the winner for himself and for his special clique in Germany.

The "Deutsche Friedens Gesellschaft," or Peace Society, was the first to denounce the activities of German militarists after the first World War and to reveal their sinister role in Russia. Its members who survived the Hitler massacres met in Frankfurt last summer.

Again some of them warn: "It seems inconceivable that after what happened in the past twenty years, German militarists and merchants of death could manage to make this or that Russian, this or that Anglo-Saxon, believe that German co-operation would ensure victory for them and that it could be worthwhile to gamble with war.

"Yet we know that even before the end of World War II, some of the most fanatic Nazi militarists were at work to smuggle models of German weapons (that the Nazis did not have time to produce in big numbers) over to the Russians. There was the leader of the SS,

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Kammler, who tried desperately, in the last days of battle, to get a whole train loaded with new-type V-weapons headed in the direction of the advancing Russians. He failed because American bombs hit the train in Halle and destroyed it.

"The names of German scientists and military experts who went voluntarily to the Russian side are known. They are expected to work with more fanaticism than the men the Russians forced to work for them, or those who went to America merely to carry on their scientific work."

3.) The third group which feels that war must come consists of people who see a war as the only possibility of putting an end to Communism. Pointing to totalitarian rule in Russia, to the acts of terrorism of the NKVD and others in Russian-controlled territories and to the activities of Communist cells throughout the world, it finds Communism as evil and as dangerous as Nazism was. Therefore, it holds, the Western world must go to war against Communism.

But did the greatest military victory of all times finish Nazism? Would World War III destroy Communism any more than World War II destroyed Nazism?

One thing is clear in Germany: Our victory swept away the Nazi chieftains; it did not finish Nazism.

Marching to Horst Wessel Song

The little group of Germans I saw marching into Berlin early in August were singing the Horst Wessel song. They looked somewhat apprehensive when they saw the American jeep parked nearby, with a soldier at the wheel. The soldier did not move. They sang louder.

I went over to the soldier and asked him, "Do you recognize the Nazi and them?"

"Gee whizz!" said the young man. "Is that really the Nazi anthem? I'm not on duty . . ." He drove away.

On August 25th, the workers of Anhalter Railroad Station held a meeting to protest against "Nazi provocations, such as Germans marching in military formation through the streets of the Kreuzberg district of Berlin, singing Nazi tunes, including the Horst Wessel song."

In many German cities, tablets are monuments erected to honor the memory of the victims of Nazism are being torn down or painted over. In Munich, the police did nothing when signs on the square named for the "Victims of Fascism" were replaced by signs reading "The Victims of Democracy." They acted only after a Munich paper front-paged the story.

Some of our officials like to say that we can do nothing about sabotaging German state ministers because: "The Ger-

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mans must learn to govern themselves." This is sheer self-deception. The Germans still suffer from the Nazi disease, which induces the patient to feel it his duty to please the highest man in power. Hundhammer and his ilk circulate the news that they and their wives enjoy the friendship of the chief American representative, General Mueller, and his wife. The claim may not be true, but the old-timer who was too stupid to recognize the Hitler menace in 1933 is not going to risk voting against a man who shows all evidence of enjoying the special friendship of the big American boss.

Thus it is safe to forecast that, for quite a while to come, the reactionaries and their well-camouflaged friends will be able to make their weight felt in Bavaria at the expense of democrats. They find the climate less pleasing in American-controlled Hessen and other parts of Germany, but since they form a special clique of their own, they will fare relatively well as long as any of their friends remain in power.

All these sundry groups, the warmongers, the reactionaries, the camouflaged Nazis, have one common goal: They want to torpedo whatever sound modern government or economy we try to create. They figure that if our efforts to pacify Europe succeed, the Germans and other Europeans will learn to appreciate real democracy and they would lose their chance to regain control of Germany and possibly Europe.

(This is the first of two articles by Miss Schultz on the realities of the Allies' occupation of Germany. The second will appear next week.)