



Thursday, May 10, 1945

But Does Germany Know It's Licked?

There Still Are Murder, Plunder, Treachery and Arrogance

By ERNEST CROWN

The German Army has been defeated, but the German murderers are still murderers, the Junkers are still Junkers, and they are all still Nazis—and all of them are looking ahead to the next war.

Propaganda?

Here is what the Germans, whose commanders begged for mercy at the signing of the surrender, did in the 24 hours just before and after the formal deadline for capitulation:

¶ In its last communique, broadcast from Flensburg on the Danish border several hours after the deadline, the German High Command announced the award of one of the highest military orders to the commander of the 7th Division. The reason: his troops in East Prussia “even yesterday (Tuesday) gallantly defended to the very last” the mouth of the Vistula and surrounding territory. In recognition of the “exemplary gallantry of his soldiers” (in killing Russian soldiers to the very end) the general got diamonds to the oak leaves with swords to the Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross.

German Honor

¶ The same communique (broadcast, incidentally, apparently with Allied permission) paid high tribute to troops in Latvia who “refused premature surrender.” Actually, according to a Soviet communique, they didn’t cease fire until the final minute.

¶ And this is how the same communique talked of the crushing of German fascism’s military might:

“This struggle brought us great victories, but also heavy defeats. In the end the German Wehrmacht succumbed *with honor* to enormous superiority . . . The unique performance of the front and homeland will find a final appraisal in the later *just*, judgment of history. Every soldier therefore . . . may set to work in these gravest hours of our history with courage and confidence to safeguard the undying life of our people.”

Murder and Rob

¶ This is German honor: More than six hours after the midnight surrender deadline, German planes bombed Prague yesterday. Other planes were reported by Prague radio to be constantly bombing the city of Melnik, 18 miles north of the Czechoslovak capital, hitting, among other targets, the Melnik hospital. The Nazi killers—now

Arrogance

mere bandits—"are murdering and robbing the peaceful inhabitants," the Czech radio said, in urgent appeal for Allied help. Prague, itself, was completely liberated by the Red Army, which came to the aid of the patriot fighters yesterday. And last night, in his victory message to the Russian people, Stalin himself announced that some German troops were "evading capitulation" in Czechoslovakia. A midnight Soviet communique said the German Armies in Czechoslovakia still were running from the Red Army.

¶ German honor? A Reuter report says British and American airmen who escaped from German prisoner camps in Czechoslovakia have been attacked by the German troops, "who are shooting anyone found hiding an Allied prisoner."

¶ German honor? The Netherlands News Agency reports that several Netherlands were killed and more than 30 seriously wounded Monday night when drunken German marines opened fire from rooftops and windows with hidden machine guns on thousands of Netherlands jamming the public square in Amsterdam to welcome Allied troops.

¶ German honor? George Baumgarten, Reuter correspondent at Copenhagen, reports that German soldiers marching out of Denmark to Germany to be disarmed plundered anything they could lay their hands on.

Still a Nazi

¶ German honor? In Oslo at least four Norwegians were killed and many injured in a battle between German troops and Norwegian patriots Tuesday night.

¶ In Berlin, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel appeared for the signing of the final surrender wearing "The Order of Blood" or golden Nazi Party emblem which Hitler had conferred on all his field generals. In the opinion of a British General quoted by Matthew Halton of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. "Keitel is saying, 'I come here as a Nazi as well as a Prussian.'" An American officer murmured: "Keitel is still Prussia, he isn't finished, he's just taking a rest."

30,000 Booms

The only German forces who hadn't begun to surrender by last night aside from those in Czechoslovakia, were in far northern Norway and in Yugoslavia, facing Marshal Tito's forces. The German communique gave as excuse that the High Command was out of touch with these troops. From Paris and Moscow came word yesterday of the capitulation, one by one of all the other remaining pockets, La Rochelle, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Dunkirk in France; the Vistula Estuary and Latvian pockets on the Baltic Sea; Bohnholm, Danish island off the tip of Sweden.

Moscow finally let loose with its great victory celebration yesterday and last night. A thousand guns boomed 30 times, the greatest salute of the war in Moscow, and 324 guns fired another 24 salvoes



PM, May 10, 1945

to mark the liberation of Prague.

But even while Moscow was celebrating, it was warned by Lt. Gen. Euege Feodorov in a broadcast:

“Victory is won but the struggle against German Fascism is not over. The Nazis are going underground. They’re carrying on their campaign. The Nazis are, and will go on, voicing their aims through their friends and protectors. Their aim is clear, to bring about a split in our camp of United Nations.”

Stalin himself proclaimed in a speech to his people:

“The great patriotic war has ended with our complete victory. The period of war in Europe has ended. The period of peaceful development has begun.”

One phrase of Stalin’s is worth notice: “Russia is celebrating victory, although it does not intend to dismember or to exterminate Germany.” Robert Reuben, Reuter correspondent who went into the Russian zone, tells how the Russians are trying to make human beings out of barbarians:

“The Russian policy is one of stern retribution, but their emphasis is on fairness and in the occupied cities the Germans are allowed to elect their own mayors to serve with appointed officials of the Soviet Military Government. By contrast, in territory occupied by the Western Allies a German mayor is appointed by the Military Government. In most cities held by the Soviet Army the entire populace is rounded up indiscriminately and required to clean up the wreckage.”

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