

also kept from the Germans themselves much of what was being done in their name, are partly responsible for this. But in the final analysis the main reason is that the Germans are still Germans, and that even an active anti-Nazi like Count von Galen, Archbishop of Muenster, declares that, being a German, he must remain loyal to the Fatherland.

That is a fundamental factor which the Allies will have to take into account in all their efforts to solve the problem of what to do with Germany.

HITLER'S LAST FAILURE

The final act of the drama now drawing near its end in Germany has been often characterized as a "Twilight of the Gods," in which the Nazi leaders are attempting to destroy as much of European civilization as possible, in a Wagnerian holocaust, before destroying themselves. No doubt the Wagnerian romanticism that is embedded in the character of most Germans, and that has especially inflamed the unstable brain of Hitler himself, is one element in the situation. But the drama we are witnessing is both less and more than that. It is less because it is, in part, merely the attempt of the desperate Nazi leaders to postpone their doom by prolonging a lost war. It is more because, far from being a self-immolation of atonement, it is an attempt to perpetuate the fanatical Nazi ideology and to prepare the way for a new German attempt at world conquest through a third world war.

For that purpose the Nazi leaders have drawn upon all their resources of terror, propaganda and cunning to keep the Germans fighting, to organize guerrilla warfare behind the Allied lines, and to thwart their inevitable disarmament by planting their arsenals for the next war in other lands beyond Allied control, as they did after the last war. How far they will succeed in this last project will depend upon Allied vigilance and the future organization of the peace. But as regards their other efforts, the Allied armies, which now control more than one-ninth of all Germany in the west alone, have gathered enough experience to permit at least a tentative appraisal. This appraisal suggests that while the Nazi fanatics will undoubtedly continue their last-ditch resistance until they are crushed, the rest of the Germans have had enough.

As General Eisenhower has said, German Army units, even when completely isolated, often continue to fight. But they continue to fight only because there is nobody in authority to tell them to stop. The German officers who command them are either under Nazi terror or follow their own code based on unquestioning obedience. Yet wherever possible, German troops and an increasing number of officers are now surrendering, and the Allied capture of 310,000 prisoners in the west within a fortnight is proof that the German Army is disintegrating. The Nazi effort to raise new armies by calling to the colors the very young and the very old has been futile. German civilians not only hasten to put up white flags whenever the Allies approach, but at times even turn against their own troops to save their towns, at the risk of reprisals from the Nazis. And while Nazi propaganda is trying to make the most of some individual incidents, such as the murder of the Allied-appointed Mayor of Aachen and several cases of civilian resistance, the overwhelming testimony is to the effect that guerrilla warfare is conspicuous by its absence, and that the latest products of Nazi fantasy, the "werewolf" terrorists, are more fiction than reality. This failure of Hitler's last desperate plans holds out the promise that once the Allies have established a firm authority in Germany, their control of the country may prove less difficult than appeared likely when the Nazis first made their threats.

At the same time, Allied experience has shown that with scarcely an exception the Germans are by no means in a repentant mood. They acknowledge that they have lost the war and they see no sense in suicide. They even blame Hitler for their plight—not because he started the war, but because he lost it. But for the rest, they are still convinced that theirs is a good cause and that they have been victims of misunderstandings and malignity on the part of their enemies, deserving support rather than censure—which is one reason why the Allies have been unable to discover an effective underground. No doubt Nazi propaganda and the Nazi blackout on accurate information, which not only perverted the German view of world events but