

## Occupation Aim:

# Winning the Peace

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NO matter what a man's personal opinions are about being in the Army of Occupation in Germany the fact is he will be participating in the greatest undertaking of its kind in world history.

The Army of Occupation will be the strong arm of an Allied governing body, having the mission of guiding reconstruction of Germany and rehabilitation of its people in a way that there shall be neither means nor the will to stage another military comeback.

This means doing a lot more than just breaking up what's left of the German war machine, facilities that produced it and of wiping out remnants of Nazi influence. It involves far-reaching measures—re-education of German youth with the idea of eventually creating a citizenry capable of governing itself intelligently; determining for Germany an entirely new industrial set-up that will not lend itself to ready conversion for war, and even of controlling the country's imports to the same end.

OCCUPATION of Germany is a job as important as winning the military victory. It's a job reebly attempted and badly bungled after the last war with the result Germany easily acquired means and the will to make a comeback less than 25 years later. In other words, occupation is the business of trying to make the hard-earned peace that came last Tuesday mean something to future generations.

It's going to be hard as hell sometimes for a Joe walking a post supervising a pick and shovel detail to see himself as a peace officer. It's a monotonous task, to see himself part of a lofty and ambitious enterprise. The only possible explanation: just as any small job contributed to winning a battle, so in this case will it contribute to an operation as important as any battle.

Every hook and corner of Germany will be occupied by American, British, Russian and French troops and possibly troops of other United Nations in Europe. Exact boundaries of each nation's zone of occupation have not been announced. It is known the American zone will be an area in south-eastern Germany.

It may be several weeks before these forces are located in their zones of occupation. It will require considerable shifting of troops now located in Germany. For example, a good part of U.S. forces are now in the eventual British zone of occupation. Considerable shifting of troops also will be occasioned by redeployment for the Pacific and home.

During this period of transition, there are many important "first-step" occupational tasks to be done. Troops will be needed to guard German military formations and dumps where captured arms and equipment are deposited. Other priority guard-details include frontiers to prevent escape of wanted persons, headquarters to safeguard vital records and numerous other "intelligence targets" as well as communications centers. Troops also will be involved in high priority tasks of evacuating and processing

remaining slave workers and political and war prisoners.

When the occupational armies are in their respective zones, a supreme governing body for Germany, known as the Allied Control Council, will function in Berlin. The Allied Control Council will operate much like an ordinary federal or national government and will be composed of officials and their staffs representing occupation powers. Every directive and decree issued by the council must represent the unanimous action of the national groups of which it is composed.

OCCUPATION troops in each zone will be required to carry out directives of the council. However, it is intended that undischarged German soldiers shall do the dirty work. For example, under supervision of GIs, Tommies and Red Army men, Heines will be put to work tearing down fortifications and war plants; taking stock of equipment and doing whatever is necessary to dispose of it; pulling up mine fields and removing demolitions; cleaning up war damage necessary for operation of vital civilian services and for the benefit of military operations.

Working with occupation troops will be many military and civilian experts whose special knowledge will be needed to examine German technical equipment, evaluate and direct disposition of ordnance equipment and disbandment of production facilities. There will be hundreds of experts in law, education and public information services needed to supervise purging of schools, courts, press and radio of militaristic leanings and to put these institutions back on the beam.

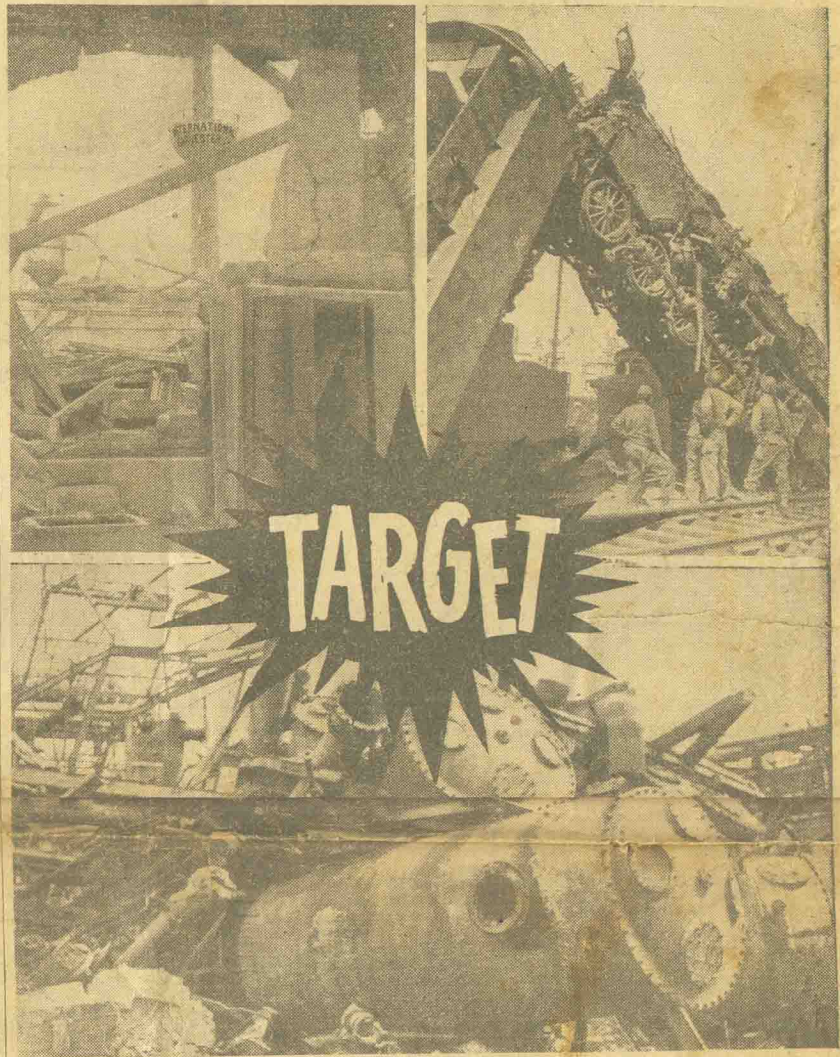
There is likely to be a rapid discharge of German military personnel in the initial stage of the occupation and it will be an intentionally slow process all along. In addition to manpower requirements for the armies of occupation, European countries which have suffered war damage are asking for several hundred thousand Heines for reconstruction work.

THE only discharges apt to take place in the near future are of men vitally needed to maintain health and minimum welfare of German people so the burden on the Allies can be cut down. The first call is likely to be for doctors. The concern over the food supply in central Europe is such that need for agricultural workers will get high priority. Then will come discharges of qualified workers needed to get public utilities—railroads, power plants, water systems—back in operation.

German commanders will be ordered to prepare rosters and all military personnel will be required to fill out personal data forms. These will serve as an inventory of available manpower for assignment to occupation and reconstruction jobs and for eventual demobilization.

Aside from claims on their services, German military personnel are not going to be let out of the service en masse for a very good reason: the Allies do not want restless, unemployed ex-servicemen wandering around. Experience after the last war proves such a condition

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Strategical bombing of Reich had no favorites. International Harvester plant (upper left) and I. G. Farbenindustrie factory (below) at Ludwigshafen reduced to rubble. Arms train met fate at Munster.

## Bombers Struck Where Big Pay-off Loomed

LETTERS from Capt. Fred T. Rogers, of the 314 Inf., and S/Sgt. Leo D. Newsam, 2nd Bn., Med. Sec. 406 Inf., asked The Stars and Stripes Editor to explain why targets which they assumed would have been of primary military importance were captured by our ground forces intact or almost so. Their letters were turned over to Brig. Gen. Alfred K. Maxwell, Director of Operations, U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe. His answer is printed below. The two original letters dealt with the Wetzlar optical factory and the Krupp steel works. Similar letters have mentioned other industrial properties, left unbombed, in the Reich.

This is in reply to the attached letters, pointing out that certain German industrial plants have escaped damage from air bombing. Our soldiers, who fought their way to these targets, are entitled to an explanation and it is suggested that, if space permits, this answer be printed in full.

The Leitz Optical Works plant at Wetzlar was attacked once by 47 U.S. Eighth Air Force bombers on July 20, 1944. The near-by Wetzlar marshalling yards were attacked by the Eighth on March 8 and March 12, 1945, and the marshalling yards at Rastatt, where a Leitz branch plant is located, on January 7, 1945.

It is understood that all shares of the firm are owned by the family of Dr. Ernest Leitz, Sr., a German national. The Leitz firm owns, besides the parent plant at Wetzlar, a branch at Rastatt/Baden, where production was discontinued four months ago. Several branch works were opened in surrounding villages during the last eighteen months.

The Rastatt plant and the small branch works were not bombed.

Now let me explain why the Wetzlar plant and its subsidiaries were not attacked vigorously by our heavy bombers. The answer is simple: the target was not important enough compared to other objectives. In addition to co-operation with the ground forces whenever necessary, the mission of American heavy bombers operating against Germany always has been to strike at those industries and agencies most critical to continued effectiveness of the enemy's war machine—the German Air Force, the

oil industry, submarine plants, ball-bearing factories tank and ordnance works, transportation facilities, etc. Optical works never were high on our priority list. It would have been utterly impossible to bomb every industrial factory in Germany. Instead, our bombing effort was concentrated against vital links in the German economy which would seriously cripple the enemy.

Men who have had tons of steel hurled at them may well wonder why we did not attack the steel industry heavily in preference to other targets. Although attacks upon many German steel plants were made, either as secondary targets or because finished products such as tanks were produced in some steel plants, it was not practical to go after the whole industry. This was because individual steel plants are of very heavy construction and the industry as a whole is very large. It takes a long time for steel, a basic material, to go through the various manufacturing and assembling processes and find its way to the front in the form of finished weapons.

Also, steel is used in a variety of products of little or no military importance. For these reasons, attacks were aimed at the more vital assembly plants for tanks and self-propelled guns, ordnance depots and ammunition dumps. Also, it must be remembered that attacks against the oil industry and transportation system not only severely limited the mobility of such weapons at the front, but actually prevented large quantities of all types of weapons and ammunition from ever arriving where they could have done great harm to our troops.

Doubtless, other captured factories will be found intact or slightly damaged, either because they were not "bottleneck" targets or because they were attacked as targets of opportunity. Some obviously vital targets have escaped destruction because their location was not known or because smoke defenses or bad weather had restricted our opportunities to attack or had caused us to miss the target when they were attacked.

To implications that certain plants or industries were spared because of Allied interests—nothing could be further from the truth. It should be sufficient to point out that millions of American dollars were invested in oil industry targets destroyed by us.



The Last Time: U.S. occupation troops are shown leaving Coblenz.