

Rain of Block-Busters Rocks Nazi Efficiency

VAUNTED Germany efficiency has collapsed under the impact of Allied block-buster bombs.

Chaos, rioting, and sudden death at the hands of the Gestapo are common in the Berlin that a few short years ago was proclaimed as being immune from allied bombings.

Through the rigid Gestapo censorship seep terrifying eye-witness accounts of survivors of the Hamburg and Berlin bombing which Walter Taub describes in "Hell's Doorstep" in the January issue of Cosmopolitan magazine.

The terror that swept Berlin as Allied bombs fell there while the smoke pall from devastated Hamburg figuratively hung over the capital German city is vividly described by those fortunate enough to escape to the safety of neutral Sweden.

"As we neared the capital," say the survivors of the Hamburg terror who were evacuated to Berlin, "we learned that Goebbels had exhorted the population of Berlin to leave immediately unless they were employed in the city. Chaos had been organized with Prussian thoroughness for when we reached Berlin expecting to find rest, peace and shelter, we were confronted by terrifying scenes. The capital was in an uproar. Frightened masses of the population were moving through the streets toward the railway stations.

"Crowds, nearing mob hysteria, were pushing prams loaded with babies and personal possessions; men, women and children were carrying trunks, suitcases, baskets, and bundles; others, unmindful of belongings dragged children by their hands. All were driven by one thought; 'Escape from the wrath of the block-busters.'"

Pandemonium swept the city when the rumor circulated like wildfire that the war would end in November. While Hitler's agents were trying to round up circulators of the rumor, Allied planes appeared over the city and rained block-busters from the skies.

"It was then that all hell broke loose," the survivors said. "Again and again came the roar of aircraft, the roar and crash of bombs, the thunder of collapsing buildings."

Huddled in shelters that were far from satisfactory all through the night of horror, Berliners crawled forth the next morning to view a picture of utter desolation.

"They saw trees standing leafless and entirely new perspectives opened up," the survivors said. "Churches which were formerly hidden by other buildings now became visible; the concealing buildings had been razed by block-busters. The blackened facades of houses and the burned-out skeletons of apartments and office buildings were grim evidences of the hail of incendiaries. Corpses, some hastily covered with sheets, were everywhere."

While Berlin has not been destroyed, large segments have been brutally battered and the block-buster treatment of Berlin and Hamburg has caused the entire German people to feel the "cold breath of death's wings" sweeping over the nation, the survivors conclude.

Mrs. Glenn C. Thompson and children are visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Thompson this week.

Seaman 1/c A. R. Shirley of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end here with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Grant.

The present with a future—**WAR BONDS for CHRISTMAS.** Keep on Backing the Attack.



EPIDEMIC OF COLDS GOING ROUNDS HERE

Mild Cases Influenza Reported In City And County

Dr. R. M. Bardin, city health officer, stated today that although there is widespread prevalence of influenza in Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County, nearly all cases reported are of a mild nature.

Reports of the prevalence here of so-called "cat fever" were given little credence by health and medical authorities yesterday. Dr. Bardin defined "cat fever" as catarrhal fever, which evidences itself in high temperatures accompanied by nausea.

Reports from various sources indicate that influenza is widespread here.

Dr. Bardin stated that most cases of the disease have been mild and that victims have been required to remain away from work only a few days.

Some doubt has been expressed that the disease, which local physicians say is nothing near epidemic stage, is in reality influenza. In fact, Dr. Bardin said he was not certain any of the cases of so-called influenza reported since the epidemic of the first World War period have in reality been influenza.

Reports received here indicate that a mild form of influenza is sweeping the country, and medical authorities in Chicago are of the opinion that the situation may prevent a serious epidemic such as caused thousands of deaths during the first World War. Only a comparatively few deaths have been reported over the nation, however, thus far.

WARNING

Several hundred cases of virus infection (generally diagnosed as influenza) are active here and in the County. Take every precaution to avoid contacting this malady. Avoid congested places if possible, and at the very first symptom **SEE YOUR PHYSICIAN** and follow his instructions!

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Jas. E. McGee, Jr., & Buddy Beckwith Graduate Sat.

Announcement has been received here by friends and relatives of two Roanoke Rapids youths of their graduation from the Medical College of Virginia, at exercises to be held at the Mosque in Richmond Saturday night.

They are: James Edward McGee, Jr., and Robert Payne Beckwith, Jr. Both youths will enter the service following their graduation and internship.

Young McGee will be commissioned a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy, while Beckwith will be made a first lieutenant in the United States Army. They will serve as internes for 9-months at the college, following which they will be subject to call by the service.

The wedding of Mr. McGee and Miss Jane Liesfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Liesfield, 1202 Lake Front, Richmond, will be solemnized Monday night, December 20th, at Monumental Episcopal Church, Richmond, following which they will spend a short honeymoon in New York City.

It is the plans of Lt. Beckwith to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. P. Beckwith in the city.

These Pigs Were Really Barbecued

Ralph Woodruff, proprietor of a barbecue stand just off Roanoke Avenue on East Thirteenth Street, was this morning calmly going about the work of barbecuing six hogs at the pit located just to the side of his brick building, when one of the carcasses caught afire. All six hogs were "really barbecued" as the entire pit quickly went up in flames.

Only the quick work of the fire department saved the destruction of the pit and nearby buildings. Outside of the loss of the hogs and superficial damage done to the pit, little damage was suffered as a result of the blaze.

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