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ARMY TALKS



LORD HAW-HAW
alias
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See yourself as Jerry sees you!



RESTRICTED • EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS • UNITED STATES ARMY

"It is desired that, consistent with operational requirements, group discussions, through the medium ARMY TALKS . . . be held in all units within this command, using one hour of training time each week . . . unit commanders will conduct an orientation program, using not less than one hour training time a week . . . presentation of this material is a command function. . . . A company officer will be present at each discussion, whether or not he is the discussion leader. . . ."

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.

(Extract from letter ETO, 30 April 1944, AG 352/2 OpGA,
Subject: Education in Military and Current Affairs.)

ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

See yourself as Jerry sees you!

THE ARMY TALKS issue based on extracts from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* quoted, among others, this passage on lies and how to use them :

“The big lie is always more believable than the little lie, because the masses, in the primitive simplicity of their minds, more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie. This is so because they themselves often tell small lies in little matters, but would be ashamed to tell large-scale lies. It would never come into their heads to tell great big lies, and they therefore don't think anyone else could distort the facts in a really big way. You can prove to them that a big lie is the opposite to the truth, and they will still believe it. For the really big lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been proved false, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world, and to all who conspire together in the art of lying.”

This Is How Press Agents Work

In this issue of ARMY TALKS you can see just how his press agents follow those directions. This is what Schickelgruber meant when he wrote that passage.

“Americans aren't grown up. They lack culture. They're undisciplined, immoral and stupid. Americans were unable to work out their troubles at home and so they got into this war to escape their home front problems. The American soldier is boastful, vain, ignorant. He is interested only in liquor, women and money. He doesn't know why he is in the war. He is unsure of his officers and doubts the quality of his leadership.



"America is licked already—but Americans are too stupid to know it. Nobody feels particularly sorry for America because Americans don't amount to anything, and deserve nothing better than the shellacking they're getting."

Says who ?

Says Joe Goebbels. Joe Goebbels, for the benefit of G.I. Joe who reads nothing but comic strips and baseball scores, is the head man of the Nazi propaganda bureau. And that bureau controls every word printed or broadcast in Germany and all conquered lands.

The stuff set down above comes right out of the mouths of German radio broadcasters. It comes hot from German printing presses. It was picked up and carefully noted by Allied intelligence officers.

It sounds funny. In a way it *is* funny. But the Germans don't think so. German prisoners coming back from the beachheads believe every word of it. They told the officers who questioned them that Americans are an inferior mongrel race, unfit to live in the bright new world of Hitler and his Supermen. They believe that New York had been bombed to ruins. They had been told that no ship flying a flag of the United Nations could cross the Atlantic Ocean.

This is the same kind of nonsense the German home front radio and news front propaganda has been pouring out. These are the ideas a generation of Germans have been getting every time they switch on their radios or open a newspaper. Two million Fritzes in the French defense areas have been getting this stuff for years.

It's pretty near impossible for Yanks to understand how Jerry thinks. But put yourself for a few minutes in the position of a German. You pick up your newspaper, or you listen to your radio. This is what you see—this is what you hear.

The favorite target of Nazi propaganda is the American Army Air Force. The reason, of course, is that they are the fellows who have been delivering a large order of war—right on the German home grounds.

No Tale Is Too Absurd For Them

No tale is too absurd to find a place in the enemy home and foreign front propaganda blast. Here are some beauties, picked from recordings of German stations :

German Home Service, June 4. "A group of U.S. pilots now interned in Switzerland revealed that they had no idea where Switzerland was or that it was a neutral state. This is a magnificent example of the superb education of America's sons."

German European Service in English, May 26. "American airmen admit they don't know where their bombs go. One flight lieutenant whose plane crashed during a raid said he did not know where his bombs, dropped, although he was an experienced navigator."

Radio Paris, May 18. "During his interrogation in Rumania, an American airman who had bailed out declared he received 800 dollars per flight and that his task was to drop his bombs indiscriminately on a target vaguely indicated by the commanding aircraft."

NDZ, May 16. "When our fighters make contact with the Americans they find they scare easily and soon have only one thought, to jettison their bombs anywhere and run back home. If they are caught, they bail out immediately, often before giving battle."



National Zeitung, April 10. "The American has a mean and vengeful spirit. He drops poisoned chocolate out of the sky so little children will be killed, or drops fountain pens which explode and maim the little creatures."

Scare Stories About American Planes

German Home Service, April 12. "The U.S. terror airmen report that German defenses are so intense the fighters turn back and leave the bomber formations to fend for themselves."

German Overseas Service, April 11. "On Easter morning U.S. bombers disturbed a church service and drove all the worshippers into a shelter. As bombs fell we wondered where all this boasted American precision bombing came in. One of the people commented on this precision bombing which had demolished a Swiss town shortly before. The reason for this may be due to a statement an American airman made to me a short time ago. 'You see, the best of our men have all been killed.' Such actions as these represent an admission of the utter contempt Americans have for God and man alike. Such people cannot win a war—ever."

Radio Paris, April 8. "The much vaunted bomb-sight which Army officials boast will make even the most inexperienced pilot capable of launching the bombs exactly on the target, doesn't sound so good in real life. It fell to the lot of General Eaker to boast the quality of these precision instruments by saying 'When the pilots in our bombers equipped with these bomb-sights attacked Cassino for the first time, through some inexplicable mishap all the bombs fell on our own troops.' A second

experiment was made at Venafro with the same results, but this time, the bombs fell on British troops. In view of these sensational and methodical results, we may confidently expect the American Air Forces to scrap this high precision instrument."

Nazis On American Education

German Home Service. April 19. Talk by Dr. Joseph Saal. "The 'Woolworth' standard of American education was nowhere better illustrated than in an incident which happened a little while ago. A U.S. airman was interrogated in Budapest. He had been shot down during one of the recent terror raids. He was asked what he knew of Hungary. He was one of the so-called educated classes, had passed through high school, and from whom some information would be expected. But he replied in an embarrassed stammer, 'I heard once, at school, that a country of that name existed.' This man had not the slightest idea of the old European nation of Hungarians and their history, which was important at a time when Red Indian tribes lived where U.S. sky-scrapers stand today. He had only heard once at school a fleeting remark that there was a Hungary somewhere. This ignorance of the continent with the oldest culture of mankind is general among the Americans, and they pose as the saviors of mankind. There is no need to explain what Europe can now expect from these people."



Another favorite method for Fritz is to hammer away with the idea that we are a bunch of ignorant lugs and that once we occupy an area things get so tough for the inhabitants that they only wish the good, kind Gestapo was back to hand out chocolate and kiss babies. Here are some radio and newspaper items along that line :

Belgian Home Service (German controlled), April 20 : "Wherever the English or American soldier sets foot he brings with him hunger and

misery, and we can only say that the Anglo-American forces will certainly not bring us the promised milk and honey."

Rome Radio (German controlled), May 11 : "The slave-trade and methods used in those days are now being revived in Naples. When a starved dock worker steals a small tin of biscuits the U.S. Military Police catch him, strip him and hang him in a cage which is suspended by a crane in the harbor. There he remains according to his resistance, and then, when he is in a coma of exhaustion, he is flogged and flung into jail." To add a delicate touch, if it is very hot he is hung in the sun and fed on biscuits or meat without any water until he goes mad. Never has Italy known such barbarism brought by the 'Liberators' with their 'liberty' and their mercenaries of every race who have brought our country hunger, epidemics, violence, crime, treachery and medieval instruments of torture."



German Home Service, April 19 : "The American soldiers seem to be having a difficult time in Italy. At Christmas and then on the Ides of March they wanted to be in Rome, and now Easter has passed, and it will soon be Whitsun, so the best thing to do is talk about something else. What about the many little babies whose mothers are English and fathers American? The U.S. Army of Occupation, the so-called Allies, contributes far more fathers who do not wish to be fathers than actively fighting soldiers. They seem better in the boudoir than on the battle field. 'What shall we do?' the honorable parents ask each other—and they send their patriotic daughters into the country and prepare baby clothes . . . a baby wants his body to be covered even if his U.S. father doesn't want to have anything to do with him. If under pressure from the parents the child is adopted this is a stroke of luck. Look at the quadruplets which some enterprising American fathered on an English girl. Really England is acquiring a disgusting reputation, and all due to the American invasion."

They Invent Famine, Blame Us

DNB, March 1. "New details are leaking out as to the terrible condition in Southern Italy due to the inefficiency and brutality of the Allied occupation. The food situation has become so difficult of late, due to the fact

that U.S. troops are requisitioning all the food supplies destined for the towns. In Naples there is a terrific typhoid epidemic and people dare not go out at night for fear of robberies and bands of thieves or, worse still, drunken soldiers who respect neither God nor man. Deeds of violence, particularly against women, are reported from all quarters. Deportations of children to Soviet Russia has not yet ceased.

German European Service (in English), April 7. "If the Allies win, the Axis peoples will receive the same blessing of U.S. culture as the population of North Africa, Sicily and Southern Italy. Today there are already many witnesses to the liberating activity of the Allied occupation troops in Africa and Italy; witnesses who are either starved, or dying of malaria, or typhus, or who have been deprived of their last possessions."

NPD, May 5. "One of the subjects of discussion between Mr. Stettinius and Mr. Murphy in London was the disgraceful behaviour of the American troops in North Africa and Southern Italy. Another subject was AMGOT, the failure of which has threatened American prestige in Europe."

German Home Service, March 14. "The robberies in postal depots in Southern Italy are now perpetrated by well organised gangster bands. Some of the leaders are North American gangsters. So poor has been the American policing methods that it has been necessary to employ British military police to try and return the stolen goods."

German Home Service, April 26. "American soldiers do not come like liberators to Southern Italy. They eat everything bare like locusts where they settle down."

Yanks in the ETO come in for plenty of the old you-know-what when they switch on the microphones or start the presses rolling in Germany and the captured countries. You wouldn't think that some GI, buying



a mild and bitter in Ye Olde Agriculturist's Arms, was bringing the world down on his head—but see what the German press agents can make of it :

The German paper *Nachtausgabe* of April 6 writes : "We hear that life in Britain has become impossible due to the drunkenness and rowdiness

of the American soldiers. They pilfer in hotels and canteens and molest women to such an extent that life is no longer bearable in London. Anxious mothers are sending their daughters into the country to keep them away from their Allies."

How "Split Allies" Technique Works

German Home Service, April 5. "The British are annoyed at the bragging and impudent manner in which U.S. troops criticize the British and the way they speak of carving up the British Empire. They are also embittered because they have to give the Americans precedence on all important mutual questions and consultations."

German Overseas Service to India, April 5. "What are the Americans fighting in Burma for? Certainly not for the Indian people, of which, in Bengal alone last year over 1,800,000 died of starvation. Or is it that they are fighting for American investment and American imperialism?"



Of course the whole American picture is strictly no good, from the point of view of Hitler's little helpers, but they sometimes have to go pretty far to find out exactly what's wrong with us. Most Joes probably don't realize that a Benny Goodman swing record, or the latest release from Hollywood, is a sign of moral degradation. Trust to the adjective artists in Berlin, though, to spot what's wrong with us :

German Home Service, March 30. From a talk by Dr. Rittich entitled "America's Borrowed and Stolen Culture." "Most of the contents of American museums have been stolen from the cultural sphere of the Axis. Scholars admit that modern America lacks tradition and that there is no such thing as U.S. culture. They are following their usual pattern by looting Italy of her treasures now, just as they looted Germany after the last war, when the exchange made all purchases possible. Their attitude toward Cassino is typical of this, for Roosevelt has said that to rebuild the

monastery would not cost much more than an edifice in reinforced concrete. Of course it would be a cheap imitation but everything in the United States follows these lines, which borrows and steals its culture because it is so pitifully poor in this respect."

Americans As "Money Grabbers"

German Home Service, April 29. Commentary by Fritz Lucke: "Americans boast to the outside world of their great war effort but in reality they only look after business interests. The Americans have no idea what this war is all about and are letting the British do most of the fighting."

German Home Service, April. In a talk entitled "Culture in the U.S." a German commentator states: "The Americans have been searching for their own style for some time. Manufacturers of song hits stole the motifs from Bach cantatas. Famous European operas were put into fancy dress of jazz. It is said that it has been necessary to forbid WACs to tattoo themselves but this warning has been of little avail and various odd patterns are most fashionable. This is the sort of thing that goes on in America all the time and yet with this material they want to build their American century. We Europeans know how to bear with dignity the blame of being short-sighted in such affairs of art."

German Home Service, April 6. "The Chief of the New York Police commenting on the training of U.S. soldiers in gangster methods, said many U.S. soldiers are now learning gangster methods of killing and thus



they would probably become dangerous criminals after the war because they would be unemployed and suffering economic distress."

Hungarian Home Service, April 29. "The ruthless materialism of the Americans is the real reason for this horrible war being waged against women and children. Despite the great number of their religious societies; the Americans have become anti-Christian."

DNB, March 15. In a press conference, Dr. Deitrich declared: "The Americans seem bent on destroying all the cultural monuments they can. This is obviously done to destroy anything which might defect from the products of American imperialism."

Volkischer Beobachter, March 13. "Americans completely lack the soldierly tradition. They do not become successful merely because they have a mastery of precision instruments. The only thing that pushes them forward on the road of war which they hate is the scorn of the British which drives them into action. American tactics are dictated by fear and overweening terror of losing their lives."



Nothing is too silly or too trivial for the Germans to feed into their propaganda mill. They cull through American newspapers and magazines looking for items which they think they can twist to their own uses. When the Nazi rewrite men get through they make an innocent item about a strawberry festival, clipped from somebody's home town paper, read like the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Here are some assorted samples, covering a wide field but intended for a narrow use :

German Home Service, March 13. "The education of America has reached such a high point that the Army has been forced to teach the ABC to 200,000 new recruits."

German Home Service, March 10. "By order of the U.S. President, an official center for the forging of banknotes has been opened. German, French and other European notes are printed there for circulation in case of invasion."

German Home Service, April 24. "War to the American means nothing but business and more profits."

"Americans Hate British," Goebbels' View

DNB, March 6. "The American public is showing the greatest interest in the intensified German raids on London and shows its pleasure in these raids in a manner which seems hardly credible. The Americans hate the British so much that they are pleased the British are having a bad time."

Transocean, April 13. "Influential Americans backed up by just as influential papers are doing everything possible to promote militant American nationalism. Americans are returning to sound simple Americanism and throwing internationalism overboard. Most of Americans don't like Europe anyhow."

German European Service in English, April 18. "The drug store owner has been accused of a swindle. He advertised in the newspapers and periodicals a brand of pills produced by him. The advertisement was worded as follows: 'Take an invasion pill and get rid of your pessimism.' The pills were said to serve the purpose of dispelling the invasion fears of U.S. troops."

Campaign's Three Purposes

That's the kind of stuff Germans are getting and have been getting for the last two years. It has three purposes:

1. To needle up the German soldier and German civilian into keeping up the fight as long as possible;
2. To breed discontent, distrust and division between the United States, Great Britain and any and all of the United Nations which can be reached;
3. To kid American soldiers into slowing down, easing off or letting up on the pressure.

Hitler knows his Nazi Party and his army are being backed into a corner. They'll try to fight their way out. They are also trying to talk their way out. This is the stuff they are using.

Just as an infantryman digs in as protection against enemy fire, all of us should be pretty sure what it is all about as a protection against THIS kind of attack.



The man who reads this stuff—and goes away thinking to himself:

"Well, I don't know . . . I think he's got something there . . ." has been hit. He has been hit just as much, just as surely, as if he were lying on a stretcher with a hunk of shrapnel in his wishbone.

In a way, it is an even more dangerous wound. The man with shrapnel or a machinegun slug in his frame doesn't pass that wound on to some other fellow. The man who thinks "he's got something" is very liable to do so. The fact that he may have been fooled by a clever piece of Goebbels rewrite doesn't change the score. The damage may be done without the man who did it even knowing what happened.

These quotations show the kind of stuff the Germans use.

Make this an exercise in propaganda recognition. It is just as much a part of the soldier's job as an airplane recognition.

Goebbels' New Line

EXAMPLES of German radio and press propaganda, cited in this issue of ARMY TALKS, were collected prior to the landings on the French Coast. How did Goebbels react to the news that troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force were actually fighting on the Continent?

Gordon Young, Stockholm correspondent of the *Daily Express*, of London, cabled this roundup of the Western Front war news, as it was presented in the German Press, during the first five days of the attack :

Goebbels, fighting the last propaganda battle of his life, is directing his "invasion news" along lines entirely different from anything he has ever done before.

I spent this week-end making a study of all the recent German papers which have now come to Stockholm. Two facts are clear :—

1. Goebbels is telling an entirely different story at home from the one he is having sent abroad.

2. The German people are being given, for the first time in this war, reports on fighting which, though incomplete, are restrained, cautious and, to a certain extent, accurate.

Here is a day-by-day summary of the German newspapers, starting with Wednesday, which the Germans call :—

Mittwoch

You can see how Goebbels prepared his Press campaign long beforehand if you look through the morning papers of last Wednesday—the first German morning papers to carry news of the landings.

Keynote of all the wordy articles was given by Voelkischer Beobachter's front page streamer, "After long delay, the Allies yield to pressure of the Soviets."

The Wednesday's Goebbels papers merely assured the German public that the attack was being adequately coped with, so there was no need for alarm.

On Wednesday evening the foreign correspondents in Berlin were being told by Goebbels's military expert :—

"The Allies' losses have been so heavy that they would now like to break off the action if it were not for the binding promises they have made to Moscow."

Donnerstag

But did the German papers on Thursday take up this suggestion that the attack might suddenly be called off?

Not at all, though they emphasised—as was only to be expected—the claim about the heavy Allied losses.

But still there were no wild claims, and the *Volkischer Beobachter* printed the frankest sentence of its career when it said: “If the enemy attack succeeded, it would be the end for us.”

Freitag

On Friday the papers were also reserved. They printed sober situation reports, and featured the big roundup from Stockholm of all paragraphs and phrases taken from Allied war reporters' stories which revealed British and American difficulties.

Sonnabend

On Saturday the German papers printed the first explanations of why the Atlantic Wall had not lived up to German expectations.

Allgemeine Zeitung blandly declared: “These fortifications were never designed to be an insurmountable defensive wall, but only to act as a breakwater.”

To allay German anxieties, the papers explained “Rommel's counter-operations are only in their preparatory stage as yet.”

Then came the views of Sunday, or:—

Sonntag

A Berlin military spokesman told Swedish correspondents today that the siege of Cherbourg from land and sea is expected by the German High Command to start at any moment.

He said that Rundstedt is unable to send strategic reserves to Cherbourg, as if he did so he would be threatened by “three other Montys” suddenly appearing at other points of the European coast.

Always before, these historic moments in German history have been signalled by a stirring declaration to the German people by Hitler himself.

How to prepare this Army Talk

WE know what we are broadcasting to the Germans about the war—it is the truth, just as we are telling it to our own people. We know, too, what the Germans are broadcasting. This issue of ARMY TALKS carries releases of what the Nazi machine is handing out to Germany and the occupied countries by press and radio. Some of it is fairly clever; most of it is distorted and exaggerated out of all relation to the truth. To us it may sound silly. But to the fellow who doesn't know anything about us it can prove an efficient and devilish weapon.

NOTE TO AIR FORCE UNIT LEADERS :

Operational personnel can pick up some of this stuff while flying. They have heard many broadcasts not reported in this issue. Ask pilots, gunners or navigators what they think of German propaganda broadcasts. Do they pay attention to it? Does it sound convincing? Many more of you have heard them over the squadron radio or at the Operations shack. Here is a definite link-up between the Air Force and this ARMY TALKS.

NOTE TO GROUND FORCE UNIT LEADERS :

Many of you are in France now. More of you will be going. You will be especially interested in material directed towards the French people. The Boche has tried to prejudice them against us by stories of indiscriminate bombing of French towns. You can find other samples. If the French have swallowed this bunk your job will be harder. Reports on French Cooperation indicate they have kept their common sense.

NOTE TO SERVICE OF SUPPLY UNIT LEADERS :

In some ways SOS men have a closer contact with the civilian populace than anyone else. This means that the greatest responsibility for disproving the Nazi line falls on you. Most of the French are skeptical at the present moment of German reports that most Americans wear horns. What they think six months from now depends on us.

Lead in with 10 or 12 minutes of talk on the topic. Lead out with 5 minutes of summary. Encourage the free exchange of ideas during the hour. Don't try to dominate the group. Don't let anyone else dominate it either. Listen in on Friday at 1100 hours to the American Forces Network's ARMY TALKS program, if you are anywhere near a radio.

TIP TO UNIT COMMANDERS

ARMY TALKS ON THE AIR

Tune in on your American Forces Network station for a dramatized presentation of the week's Army Talk.



TIME: Friday, 23 June 1944 at
1100 hours.

PLACE: Any convenient spot
where you have a radio
and a room for your
platoon to listen in
and discuss the subject.

STATION:
American Forces Network.