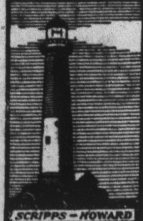


ROY W. HOWARD President
WALTER LECKRONE Editor
HENRY W. MANZ Business Manager

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland st. Postal Zone 9.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, NEA Service, and Audit Bureau of Circulations.



Price in Marion County, 5 cents a copy; delivered by carrier, 20 cents a week.
Mail rates in Indiana, \$5 a year; all other states, U.S. possessions, Canada and Mexico, \$7 cents a month.
RILEY 5551

THE BIG THREE SHOULD MEET

THE Big Three should meet soon. It is unfortunate that so many decisions must wait on the personal consultation of three men. But that's the way it is. So the quicker they get together the better. This would have been necessary in any case, because of the death of President Roosevelt. Post-war European problems and Pacific war demands make it imperative now.

There are plenty of reasons why such a meeting is not convenient at this time. If duties at home required the recall of Foreign Commissar Molotov from the all-important United Nations conference in San Francisco, certainly Marshal Stalin has his hands full in Moscow. Prime Minister Churchill, in addition to his manifold official obligations in domestic and foreign affairs, is preparing as Tory party leader for a general election. And, of course, President Truman is not yet settled into his new job.

But the postponed and new allied decisions requiring a Big Three session are of an urgency which cannot be put off without serious consequences.

AT THE TOP of the list is Japan. What is Russia going to do? How? When? The general understanding that Russia will move at her convenience, and the common estimate that four months would be consumed in switching her military strength from Europe to the Far East, are not sufficient. If Russia is going to fight, a much closer allied liaison must be perfected than Stalin permitted in Europe, even after the Yalta blueprint. And more acute than military questions are the political. Does Stalin plan to grab control in Manchuria, Mongolia, Korea, Japan, as he has in Eastern Europe?

Next on the list is Poland. The allied commission in Moscow failed to put into operation the Yalta agreement. The three foreign ministers, in almost constant session at San Francisco, failed to the point of not even being able to discuss the subject any longer. By kidnapping and imprisoning non-Communist Polish leaders, who were to have been members of a new democratic Warsaw government pledged at Yalta, Stalin has created a worse impasse.

Though less publicized, the problems caused by Russian dictatorship in Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Austria are hardly less explosive than the Polish. The Italian situation is equally dangerous.

THEN THERE are all the delayed decisions regarding Germany. After months of negotiations on these issues, German surrender catches the allies without adequate agreement on the rules of joint occupation, on reparations, on the use of "slave labor," on territorial disputes, or even on punishment of war criminals.

Overshadowing all other European questions is whether there is to be a real peace conference, and when. Present strategy in Moscow, and to some extent in London, is for the European big powers to make a series of settlements to suit themselves, and about two years hence call in the United Nations to rubber-stamp an unchangeable status.

A Big Three meeting soon seems to be the only chance of restoring and strengthening the highly essential American-British-Russian co-operation, which is now cracking under the Polish and other disputes.

MENTAL TORTURE

A REPORT from Henry J. Taylor, in Germany, may help to explain the inexplicable. Liberated American soldiers, in some cases, feel ashamed to greet their comrades. German guards have systematically drummed into them the idea that they were cowards because they surrendered and did not die fighting.

Mr. Taylor quotes one artillery major, captured in Normandy: "I don't know how to face you men."

Remove a man from the world and tell him a lie, however monstrous, over and over. First his faith is weakened; then he begins to believe it.

A somewhat similar system was used on the German people themselves. They were isolated from outside influence. Execution was the penalty for listening to a foreign radio or reading a smuggled paper.

Day after day Goebbels and his propaganda men beat home their ideas of the master race, sub-human peoples, mistreatment of Germany, invasion of Germany, the duty of Germany to "resist aggression" and restore world order.

UNLIKE THE American prisoners, most Germans half believed or wanted to believe even before Goebbels started working on them. It is not wholly surprising that eventually they accepted as gospel some of the most outrageous lies in history.

It will be difficult to restore the mental balance of these deluded Germans, even with the restoration of the free flow of world opinion across their borders. Nor will it be easy to restore the self-confidence of the brave Americans who have been subjected to this mental torture.

But Gen. Marshall, quickly sensing this situation, has taken steps to speed the latter process. Liberated American soldiers are to be welcomed back as conspicuously as possible and given every assurance that they have been remembered, their sacrifices appreciated.

It is one of the most pitiful aspects of this war that these brave men should have any doubts of their own courage.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AGAIN

SPEAKING of helicopters, one planner of post-war aviation predicts that rural commuters will go to and from work in distant cities—zip! Just like that by helicopter. Says a pilot who gets wages for flying helicopters: "They're not practical in cross currents among tall buildings."

From our spot on the ground, it looks as if this town will have to worry about congestion of busses, street cars and autos for quite a while. After gasoline rationing is loosened the congestion will begin to reappear. And it will get no better fast as new cars reach the market, unless we are ready with adequate regulation.

Public parking space, reduction of left turns, control of curb parking, clean supervision of arterial flow—we interrupted community work on such problems shortly after Pearl Harbor. It is time to resume our studies and get set for action.

REFLECTIONS—

The Moral

By John W. Hillman



IN THE WAVE of horror and revulsion that has followed the publication of pictures and descriptions of the Nazi death camps, perhaps some of us have lost sight of the moral underlying these demonstrations of bestiality.

We are not so far removed, culturally, from the law of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." That is proved anew by the wave of letters proposing that similar punishments be meted out to Nazi criminals—suggestions that they be exhibited as beasts in a cage, or tortured as were their helpless victims. But such is not the way of civilized people, however outraged. We can not afford to stoop to the level of those we fought or, in defeat, they will have destroyed us as they could not in battle. Rather we should learn from their example. And there is an important lesson for all of us in those heaps of broken bodies, and in the calloused souls of those who, by their cruelty, have shown how little ground humanity has won in its struggle to rise from the slime of the past.

'Well and Clearly Stated'

THAT LESSON is well and clearly stated in a thoughtful editorial by Sgt. H. F. Butler in Top Billings, the weekly newspaper published at Billings General Hospital.

"If this writer were the praying sort," writes Sgt. Butler in the current issue, "he would pray not merely for the souls of the miserable victims of Nazi concentration camps, not merely also for the hopelessly diseased souls of the criminally insane keepers, but still more for the souls of all humanity. For what the Americans discovered at Belsen and Buchenwald... and what the Russians earlier discovered at Maidanek represents the possibilities latent in all people.

"Cruelty is not localized, nor is it a Nazi or Jap monopoly. Popular interest in bloodshed may take various forms, from enthusiasm over bullfighting to enthusiasm over lynchings, from absorption in murder mysteries to the irresistible impulse to gape at the mangled victims of an auto accident. The religious and moral principles of a well-ordered society impose restraints which keep all but the criminally insane from yielding to obscure impulses to shed blood or inflict suffering.

'Destroyed as Much as They Could'

"BUT THE NAZIS destroyed as much as they could of the religious and moral influences that stood in their way. They legalized the hunting down and torturing of their religious and political opponents, and thus made possible the eventual horrors of Maidanek, Belsen, Buchenwald and other murder factories.

"Let us not feel too smug and superior. The rest of the world knew even before the Nazis seized power in 1933, what the doctrines of 'Mein Kampf' would almost certainly produce. Everybody could predict it, but nobody did anything important about it.

"The lesson to be learned from Belsen, Buchenwald, Maidanek is not just the commonplace conclusion that the Nazis are fiends. The lesson is rather that those horrible places represent the logical end of violence and aggressiveness. There is what can happen to any society that throws its restraints overboard. With a multitude of lynchings and bloody labor battles to our past discredit, we Americans must be careful to observe the law and keep the peace in what may turn out to be our most difficult years, the post-war era."

'Those Pictures Remind Us'

SGT. BUTLER is obviously a man who knows what he is fighting for. Just as obviously, he knows what we must fight against—not only now but in the years ahead. And he knows how we must fight. His words to remember lest we, like the Pharisees, praise God that we are not like others, forgetting that we, too, are clay and that only good will and tolerance and decency stand between us and the spawn of the jungle. Those pictures of the torture chambers, those shriveled skeletons of living death, those piles of bones and rotting flesh remind us. It could not happen here?

Let us not be too sure. It can not happen—if we learn well the lesson of Buchenwald and Maidanek and Dachau, if we remember that they are but the last way-station on the road of violence and intolerance—the road that leads to destruction. We must not let it happen here.

WORLD AFFAIRS—

The Great Question

By Howard Vincent O'Brien

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11.—Looking at a picture of Mussolini's end—doing the Fascist salute with both arms—upside down—I recall Vernon Bartlett's tale of his visit with the Milanese adventurer, shortly after the first clashes in Ethiopia.

Mussolini was at his desk in the Chigi palace. He rose, his face set in his famous frown; but Bartlett, who had "known him when" was not impressed.

"Tell me, Mussolini," he said, "what's the pitch on all this saber-rattling you've been doing?" Mussolini's dark features relaxed in a grin. "Show, business," he said, chuckling. "Just an act. You see, Bartlett, old pal, I've made a study of this dictator stuff. Nobody knows more about it than I do. And, so far as I know can find out, no dictator ever started a war—and lived to finish it."

How right he was!

'No Wiser Than You or I'

NOW THAT UNCLE has gone into its second week, it is fair to make a guess as to what it has accomplished—and is likely to accomplish.

I find the proceedings easier to understand when I put myself in the place of the statesmen who are trying to end war and establish a peaceful world. They have a tough nut to crack; and they are no wiser than you or I. Their first step is to find out what they want—and they don't clearly know. Their second step is to work out some basic ideas on which all of them can agree.

It appears to me that their problem is really much simpler than they make it seem. The disputes over procedure, the selection of committees, the technique of voting, the subtle distinction between a "mandate" and a "trusteeship"... all these things are irrelevant. The one hard fact is that there are only three powers in the world whose opinions count at all. They are the United States, Great Britain and Russia.

We share with Britain a common language and a common economic philosophy. But we are competitors in the world's market; and the foreign policy of Great Britain has always been based on a balance of power. Britain might thus side with us—or with Russia, whose philosophy of statism is in direct conflict with our philosophy of individual liberty.

'Difficult, but by No Means Impossible'

RUSSIA WANTS peace as much as we do, and probably needs it even more. Great Britain certainly wants peace. But Russia does not believe that peace can be achieved by resolution. It believes that power is the price of peace, and so, in their hearts, believe Britain and the United States.

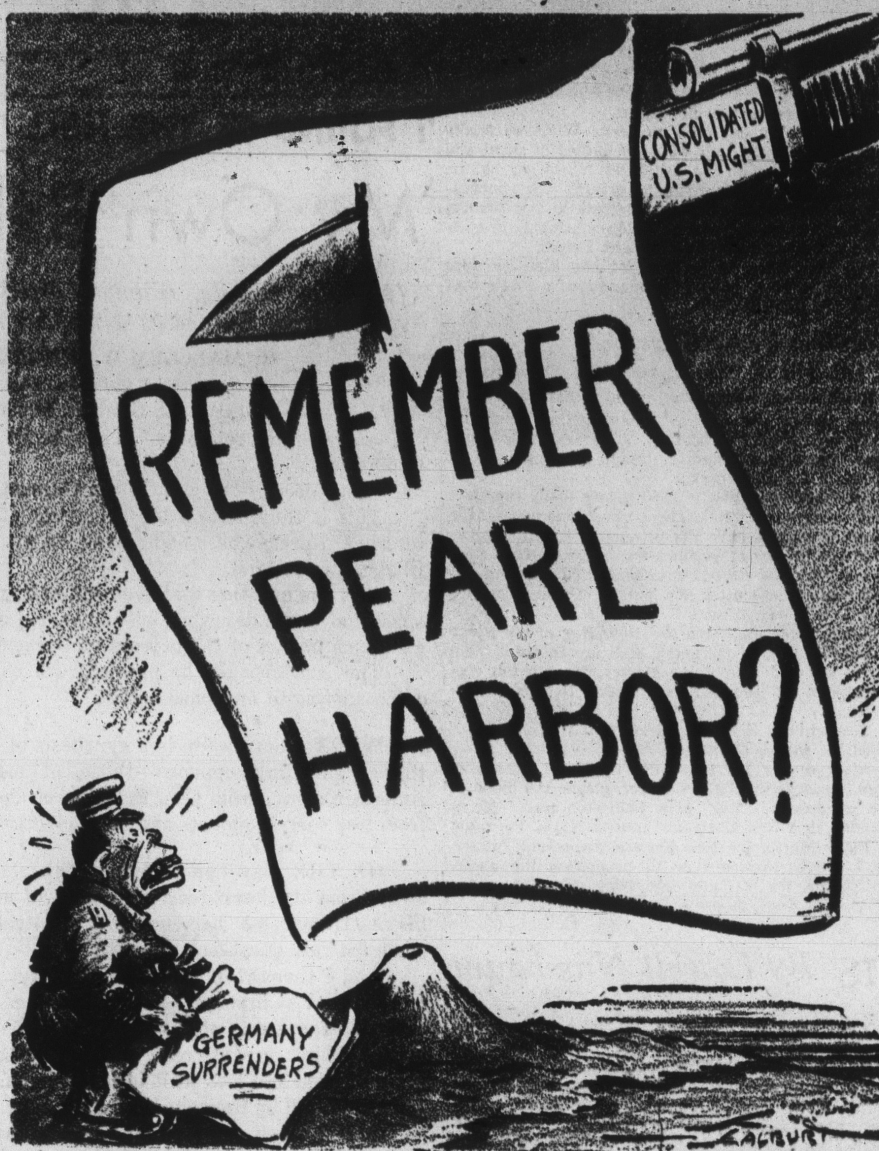
Therefore, I think the proceedings at San Francisco boil down to an effort to work out some formula which will recognize the interests of Britain and ourselves, on the one hand; and Russia on the other.

This will be immensely difficult, but by no means impossible. It will not profit us, however, to become confused with peripheral issues, such as education in Liberia and the definition of "justice."

We are likely to go farther and faster if we accept the grim realities of the situation. Admit our fundamental conflicts of interest; and stumble on from there.

No matter how eloquent the charter which will emerge from San Francisco, the great question will still remain: Can the lion and the lamb be made to lie down together—can capitalism live at peace with collectivism?

And Now for That Memory Course!



Hoosier Forum

"I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it."

THE WAY HE TOOK HIS LUMPS

By Mattie Withers, 1225 N. Arsenal ave.

Sometime ago, John W. Hillman had a piece in this paper, the subject of which I have forgotten but the substance of which was that a man should be judged by the way he takes his lumps. In support of which he quoted copiously from that most brilliant of contemporary senators, ex-Senator Ashurst. And in line with which I would like to give some personal reflections.

It has always been a wonder to me how the people of Germany could allow themselves to be led by such a man as Hitler. There is nothing about the man so far as I can see that would have any appeal to the mass of any people. I do not subscribe to the belief that the Germans are a super race, but I do regard them as being of quite average intelligence. What makes it all the more puzzling why they would accept Hitler's leadership.

It is understandable why people would flock to the colors of Napoleon. Napoleon had that which set him apart from the ordinary run of mortals. He looked the part of a leader. His picture is truly magnetic while Hitler's, if not actually sorry, is certainly nothing to conjure with. The only thing that stands out about Hitler is his ruthlessness.

But with all this, I must confess that I admire the man, for the way he took his lumps.

'THEY WILL TRY AGAIN'

By Just a Wife and Mother, Indianapolis
"Germany Surrenders!" A grim cry of history repeating itself, an echo of selfish brutality, and blind stupidity. I bow my head in shame, and shed bitter tears for the millions of innocent victims, for our wonderful boys, youth lost forever to sunshine. Do we rejoice for these? Let us resolve that these millions will not be sacrificed in a vain cause, that the peace must truly bring freedom to all men, whatever their race, color or creed.

Celebrate, if you must, this half-victory, and remember all the while the great unfinished task in the Pacific. A hard lesson is yet to be taught the people of Japan.

"Germany has had too many spankings," followed by a benign pat on the head and the admonition, "now, be a good boy." Isn't it time now that the bad boy among nations is recognized for what he is, a dangerous individual, with an insane quest? Let his punishment be in accordance with his heinous crimes.

The pictures showing tortured, starved people, Nazi victims, will stay in mind forever, reminding me to be vigilant. For "they" will try again, make no mistake! Even though Germany is rendered helpless for an indefinite period, ditto Japan, the evil seed of Hitlerism remains. The stinking weed will reappear, somewhere, sometime. Therefore we must be on the alert, always.

I appeal to you mothers, women, everywhere, be watchful. To what better purpose can we put our thoughts and determination? We've got to stop our complacent thinking, feeling that what happens in India, Russia or Timbuktu doesn't, after all, concern us. And taking for granted that our leaders are just naturally on their toes. Somehow our own just do let these wars happen!

Will it again come to pass in 20 years that our small sons be called to do the same job over? It's up to you, and you, and you, to help prevent it!

'PLEASE DO US A FAVOR'

By Mary A. Smith, Indianapolis

Will you please do us a favor? As long as there are rumors that boys granted leaves cannot return home until there is room on a boat, do not publish gay stories of Yanks' foreign wives making pleasure trips to visit their proud in-laws.



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"Every time I hint about how lovely the new spring outfits are, Dad starts reading the war news out loud!"

'LEAST OF ALL, THEY NEED BEER'

By Margaret L. Grimes, Indianapolis

After reading an article in a recent Chicago paper concerning the distribution of beer among the armed forces, I was genuinely surprised at the army.

It seems to me that if the military officials introduce the manufacture of American beer into Europe for the benefit of our American soldiers, they are "letting down."

Isn't it unfair that our taxpayers' money and their faithful buying of war bonds should be used for buying beer for the soldiers? Many of these Americans do not regard beer as essential to soldiers or anyone else. I, for one, am heated up over the idea.

I protest the use of the taxpayers' money, and the money we have loaned to the government, for the manufacture and distribution of non-essential beer to the armed forces, as revealed by apparently authentic newspaper dispatches from Washington.

We are praying for the determination and strength of our boys and leaders to continue their fight for victory. This is no time to minimize their fighting ability by creating the beer drinking habit among them. Neither is it a time to promote the financial interests of the breweries.

If we let down now, it will be aiding the enemy, not strengthening our forces against evil. The shipping space used for the supplies for the making of beer could be used for more food—good substantial, vitamin building food for those boys who have suffered starvation in the dirty old Nazi prison camps, and for our other fighting lads. Least of all, they need beer.

'STRENGTH LIES IN THE BALLOT BOX'

By John Alvin Dilworth, 816 1/2 Broadway

He serves me most who serves his fellow voters best.

It is my well-considered opinion, and I honestly believe some 7000 other voters will agree with me, that Gov. Ralph F. Gates erred in, upon recommendation of Fred F. Bays, Democratic state chairman, reappointing attorney David M. Lewis, Democrat, a former prosecuting attorney of Marion county, to the state board of election commissioners on Friday, March 16, 1945, to complete membership, with Edwin Steers, Indianapolis attorney and Republican, and Gov. Gates, of the board.

Attorney Lewis was a member of the state board of election commissioners in the 1944 general election.

Harold Buckles, special investigator for the senate's committee, is reported in the press on November 13, 1944, to be interviewing Marion county citizens who contended they were disfranchised in the 1944 general election because of confusion resulting from contradictory rulings of the state board of election commissioners. Many persons claimed they were deprived of their vote.

In the press on November 6, 1944, we read: "David M. Lewis, Democrat member, pointed out that there had been a large number of errors."

If 25 per cent of the voters, a sufficient number by signing a petition, to call an election and vote, by writing Gov. Gates protesting the reappointment of Attorney Lewis to the state board of election commissioners, would ask for his removal, I believe the governor would act accordingly. One's strength lies in the ballot box. One can hardly believe those deprived of their right as citizens, to vote in the 1944 general election have already forgotten.

DAILY THOUGHT

And he said, Go, and tell this people. Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.—Isaiah 6:9.

NONE so blind as those that will not see.—Matthew Henry.

REPORT ON EUROPE—

Nazi Slaves

By Walker Stone



WASHINGTON, May 11.—The only reason Americans and British did not populate the horror camps of Buchenwald and Dachau is that the Nazis never overran America or Britain. It is important for us to remember that the Nazis never got a chance to make political prisoners and slave laborers of American and British civilians.

Inhabitants of every country where Nazi domination extended were there, starving, beaten, tortured, diseased, degraded people.

There were thousands of German citizens, whose only crime was resisting the Nazi political machine.

Editor's Note: Mr. Stone is one of a group of editors just returned from a two weeks tour of Europe on invitation of Gen. Eisenhower to investigate German atrocities in political prisoner camps.

preaching Christianity from German pulpits or having Jewish blood.

There were other Germans, habitual criminals, common felons, incarcerated where their brutal habit could be made useful to the Nazi scheme. They were made "block leaders," with power to punish.

'Human Beings as Loot of War'

THERE WERE Germans, Austrians, Russians, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Yugoslavs, Italians, French, Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians—uprooted wherever the hordes advanced, sent to confinement for political resistance or religious "fanaticism."

Or sent back to be slaves—as the Caesars' legion sent back their captives to imperial Rome. Slavery has been gone so long from America that the word has lost its full force. It is hard for Americans to believe, difficult for us to grasp the significance of the Nazis' revival of dealing in human beings as loot of war.

Some 13,000,000 foreigners were bound to compulsory labor in the Reich. Some were called volunteer workers. There were so-called free labor camps, totally unlike the horror camps, where quarters were clean, meals ample. But they were not free in the sense of being free to go home. For the mass of the 13,000,000 there is no appropriate term except slaves.

Any farmer or merchant, industrialist or housewife who stood in close with the Nazi party could get slaves for the asking. If the slaves were meek and industrious, they were generally well fed, well treated. If they showed signs of discontent—well, there were such camps as Buchenwald and Dachau where they could be sent.

'Death Rate Almost Kept Pace'

AND SENT they were, by thousands. At the time of liberation by the American army, Buchenwald population was 20,000, Dachau's 32,000—not counting the dead, but counting the dying. The only reason the camps were not more overcrowded is that the death rate almost kept pace with the incarcerations.

American and British prisoners of war were treated harshly enough in other camps, underfed, overworked, shoveling around. But they were not confined in Buchenwald and Dachau.

Heaped high besides the crematories of Buchenwald and Dachau were the corpses of Germans, Austrians, Poles, Russians, Hungarians, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Italians, French, Belgians, Norwegians. But not Americans or British.

Nor are Americans and British among the living dead who wander vacant-eyed about the camps, still not comprehending that their liberation means they are free to depart.

But we repeat that the only reason we are not there is that the Nazis never occupied any part of America or Britain, never got a chance to take our civilians as political prisoners and slaves. Let's not forget, though, that they tried.

IN WASHINGTON—

Occupation Plans

By Charles Stevenson

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Germany's occupation will include American financing with unbacked "invasion money" and a censorship so drastic that not even let in privately published American magazines and newspapers.

This has been disclosed by Philip C. Hamblet, 36-year-old head of the European branch of the office of war information.

American and British chiefs, who are working together, hope there will be a uniform propaganda and governmental setup in each of the four occupation zones to be bossed by the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia—the whole being co-ordinated by a board of commissioners representing each power and sitting in Berlin. To date, however, the U. S. and British have been unable to contact the Russian side, Mr. Hamblet said.

Such services as the military government allow the Germans will be paid for with "invasion money"—printing press notes which can be exchanged at an arbitrary rate for foreign money only by soldier and others of the occupying forces.

All schools will remain closed for several months while authorities work out a curriculum to offset Nazism, Mr. Hamblet said.

Indefinite Continuation of OWI

THE AMERICAN government in the occupation zone will publish probably seven newspapers and magazines, the British five, and if the desired co-operation results, the French and Russians 13 more. The general news policy is to be directed by the board of commissioners.

The broad operation promises an indefinite continuation of OWI.

Mr. Hamblet is here making arrangements before he takes up his new post in Berlin, running the educational-propaganda program envisioned by OWI, the army's psychological warfare branch, and the British foreign office.

American, British and French magazines and newspapers—other than the OWI publications—will be barred, except to subscribing personnel among the occupation people, Mr. Hamblet said, because the army cannot spare the shipping space. He said that such magazines as Time, Readers Digest and Newsweek, now published all over the world in foreign languages, will be barred because of paper shortage and transportation difficulties in the occupied zones unless the magazines can make special arrangements with the commissioners.

Another explanation from an informed person outside OWI is that OWI's propagandists feel that the freedom of expression permitted in American publications, including criticism of the government, would not give the German the picture of democracy which is desired for them.

German Presses, Paper to Be Used

WHICHEVER EXPLANATION is the better, paper and transportation will be found to publish and circulate the OWI newspapers.

German presses and German paper are to be used, Mr. Hamblet said, and the mechanical forces are to be paid in invasion money. The editorial staffs will be American employees of OWI. Already 300 OWI staff members are in Germany or on the way.

At present all American news is written and handled by OWI through London. Eventually, Mr. Hamblet said, there will be a direct circuit from New York to Berlin whence, it is anticipated, OWI news will be distributed to branch points along with telegraph copy from Moscow, London and Paris.

For the time being, Mr. Hamblet said, the American-British program is to feed "objective" news of a non-political nature to the Germans. Jap defeat will be emphasized, he said, and all news will be designated to "remind the Germans of their crimes."

The directors of the new propaganda setup will be Gen. Robert A. McClure of the army's psychological warfare division and Col. William Paley, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, now on leave to OWI.

Mr. Hamblet has been in government work for eight years.