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BLEEDING BOUNDARIES
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The propaganda machine ground on.

~~A most incendiary movie, called~~ "Blutendes Deutschland" (Bleeding Germany), and portraying, so said the advertisements, "The rise of the German people," opened at the OFA Palast on the Kurfurstendamm. It was the rawest ^a ~~propaganda~~ ^{designed} to brain-wash the Germans into believing ~~the~~ appalling injustices had been rammed down their throats by the ruthless, victorious Allies. "~~I'm very much afraid Hitler is whipping up the Germans for another war,~~" Mark declared, after he and I had been the movie.

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We had gone to the premiere ^{at which}. A huge audience jammed the theatre and for two hours ~~either~~ applauded madly, ~~or~~ hissed indignantly, ~~or~~ groaned agonizingly, or sat deathly silent. At the conclusion the audience stood while the military band played the Horst Wessel song, then exploded into "Heils" for Hitler.

"Bleeding Germany" began with a pen-and-ink drawing of Christ on the cross between two thieves, symbolic, the movie caption announced, "of the Germany of today." Then ^{came} glimpses of Germany's great days from flickering old movie strips: the Kaiser reviewing his magnificent army; the Kaiser riding down Unter den Linden, bowing to ^{his} ~~her~~ people on both sides of ^{the} ~~that~~ fine boulevard; the goose-stepping Prussian Guards, prides of the nation in the days when the standing

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army ^{had numbered} ~~was~~ almost a million men....

These were followed by a rehash of every flaming incident of the past fifteen years. There were pictures ~~of~~ ^{during} the First World War taken by the German war office: men ^{being} mowed down ^{by} ~~under~~ machine-gun fire and falling before ~~the~~ ^{bursting} ~~of~~ artillery shells; men dying by the ~~score~~ ^{hundreds}; and then the end of the war, with a facsimile of the Versailles Treaty....

Next, a scene in which a map of Germany, with a crown of thorns around it, ~~was~~ ^{is} dismembered by greedy hands pulling it apart. A close-up of nothing but hands showed them grasping at the map to tear away strips of Germany, ^{Alsace-Lorraine}, Upper Silesia, the Polish Corridor, the colonies....Avaricious, self-seeking hands splitting the spoils.

This ~~scene~~ ^{scene} was followed by flashes of the French in the Ruhr and Rhineland with their black Senegalese soldiers riding down the streets; of great industries in Essen with black soldiers on guard; of German women with black soldiers again on guard; of German trains halted by French soldiers; of German workmen being ordered around; of Germany with her papier-mâché tanks and pitiful army of only a hundred thousand soldiers and no military planes.

Then ^(came) the bitter-gall contrast of France with her ^{six hundred} ~~thousand~~ ^{six} 600,000 troops and her hundreds of tanks and military

planes; of the United States with a great parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, bristling with untold numbers of infantrymen and cavalrymen; of Annapolis midshipmen and West Point cadets in a huge martial display; and of London, and Tokyo, and Rome, ^{again} also with soldiers parading and military planes flying.

^{then} Then the picture flashed back to "prostrate Germany--showing millions of unemployed, dole lines, government labor offices; ~~of~~ homes with four, five, and six ^{living one} in a room; helpless babies, suffering children.

Finally, a patchwork of news films for the preceding twelve years, depicting the rise of Hitler to the Reich Chancellorship: Hitler, the Austrian corporal; Hitler, addressing the first massing of the Nazis at Harzburg; Hitler in the first presidential campaign that he lost to ^{Von} Hindenburg; Hitler on the eve of his great victory of March 5; Hitler at the window of the chancellory, waving to the hysterical thousands below; Hitler and ^{Von} Hindenburg, ~~and~~ Von Papen and Goering, and the other bigwigs of the cabinet.

The message was clear. The picture, so Mark wrote in his Telegraph column, was intended to brainwash the Germans into believing these men ^{were} "the saviors of Germany, the men who ^{would} ~~will~~ rescue her from the grasp of other nations, take away the crown of thorns, wipe out the 'war guilt lie,' restore the colonies, and

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and make her equal again among the nations of the earth."

"I'm very much afraid Hitler is whipping up the Germans for another war," he told me.
As the "bleeding boundaries" were the most

controversial and dangerous aspect of the Versailles Treaty, ^{that} Mark had come to Europe to study, he decided it was time ~~for him to begin his round of visits.~~

~~He had found Hitler's "revolution" so engrossing he had been reluctant to leave Berlin. Now, however,~~

we headed for one of those supposedly discontented areas, the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, ~~Here~~ ^{Here}

~~the~~ Germans, ^{that is,} ~~to say,~~ the citizens of Germany and Austria before the First World War

~~made up~~ 23 percent of the population. Immediately

after the war, the ~~the~~ Germans in that newly annexed area of Czechoslovakia had tried to organize them

selves into a separate government, but it hadn't worked out. Though the Czechs had ~~even~~ offered to

concede a strip of land along the border to the Germans, the Allies had overridden ^{the idea} it. Now, accord

ing to the Hitler propaganda, these Germans were fermenting with dissatisfaction and were pining to

be reunited with the Fatherland. (Later, this propaganda under Herr Henlein was redoubled so Hitler

would have an excuse to invade Czechoslovakia.)

Besides the Germans in the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia had other minorities ~~for~~ Mark to study.

There were 750,000 Hungarians along the border of

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Hungary; 460,000 Lithuanians; 181,000 Jews, who were counted as a separate nationality; and many others.

Yet, Mark wrote for the Telegraph; after days of travel and investigation, "One hears less of minorities in Czechoslovakia than anywhere else in Europe....It seems to me that, in accordance with ^{The} enlightened policy ~~that~~ one finds in Czechoslovakia, these people have tried to be fair to their minorities....One does not feel that Czechoslovakia is a powder keg waiting for a fuse. One feels ~~that~~ the Czechs and their neighbors, the Germans in Czechoslovakia, are trying to get along in harmony, and peace, and happiness and ^{to} enjoy prosperity."

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The Saturday morning before Easter this determination of the Czechs to hold on to their peaceful life made its greatest impact on Mark ~~and me~~. For the past six or seven years they had held peace ceremonies in Prague. Representatives came from many nations, and President Masaryk and ^{other} ~~the~~ important ~~people of~~ ^{ns} Czechoslovakia attended. The program was ^{presented} held in the small parliament building and admission was by card only.

Mark and I were ~~re~~ exceedingly fortunate to attend as the guests of Dr. J. Kose, councilor to the ministry of agriculture and vice president of the American Institute. *Also in the party were*

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→ In addition, ~~Dr. Kose had in his party~~ one German, one Czech, and one Englishman, Alfred Dennis, head of the documentary division of the League of Nations in Geneva. With such a conglomerate group Dr. Kose had a struggle to explain the proceedings, part of which were in German, part in French, and part in Czech.

We ^{occupied} sat on the main floor ~~in~~ the seats of the members of Parliament. In a box above us sat President Masaryk, his thin, ^{ascetic} ~~aesthetic~~ face quiet and attentive. On the rostrum was his daughter, Dr. Alice Masaryk, head of the Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, and ~~the~~ representatives of thirty other countries.

Among the speakers was Dr. Edouard Benes, who had been the foreign minister since the republic had been created in 1918. The program lasted until a few minutes before twelve o'clock, and then the audience filed out onto the steps of the parliament building to ^{share} ~~observe~~ with thousands of others who packed the square two minutes of silence in observance of world peace.

In the square, a hundred or so feet away, stood a small bronze statue on a stone pedestal. ~~It was the figure~~ of a wounded, naked man on the verge of collapse. Every line depicted agony and hopelessness. The ^{sculpture} ~~statue~~ was the work of a

modern Czech, ~~and it~~ was kept all year in a museum and ~~only~~ brought out ^{to} on the square ^{only on} the Saturday before Easter for this peace ceremony.)

It held all eyes as ~~the~~ bells ^{at} over the city began to ring, ~~the~~ street cars stopped running, ~~the~~ automobiles halted, and people everywhere in Czechoslovakia stood still in silent prayer.

Then President Masaryk ~~turned and~~ shook hands with several friends, chatted a few minutes, and, with no more ado, ~~than a man of the street~~, walked over to his car and drove away. No motorcycle escort, no policemen, no soldiers. On the bridge over the Valtava River, his car, ~~got~~ caught in traffic, ~~and it stopped and~~ waited ^{quietly} for the street to clear.

"Think of him having no guards," Mark remarked to ~~Mr.~~ ^{Dr.} Kose.

"He needs none," he replied. "We all guard him."
 # But if the "bleeding boundaries" of the Sudetenland were minor scratches in relation to the propaganda from Berlin, ~~they were all too real~~ along the Polish Corridor, ~~where~~ they were raw and festering. The Polish Corridor, like The Sudetenland, had been ^{determined} ~~drawn~~ by the Treaty of Versailles. #

this time in order to re=create old Poland.

We ~~started~~ ^{began} our tour in the little town of Neu Beutschen, just a stone's throw from the western border of the Corridor, in the German province of Posen-West Prussia. As the name suggests, the town was new, ^{having developed} ~~It had grown up~~ since the peacemakers had met in Versailles. Old Beutschen, two or three miles away, had been given to Poland, so the Germans who had lived there and had been able to get out, had come across the border, and begun, ~~this town~~ in the middle of two potato fields, ^{this} ~~It was a~~ bright and shining town of brick, and stucco, and red roofs.

We ~~were met by~~ Herr Landesrat von Kuhlewein, the official in charge of highways, hospitals, asylums ^{and} schools, ^{met us,} and God knows what else. When he ^{went} into a hotel, the manager, the desk clerk, the head waiter, and the bell boys bounded up to hear what he had to say. He never spoke at one time to fewer than three people.

He ^{showed} ~~took us~~ first to see a ^{large} recently built ~~large~~ Lutheran church (there were more Protestants than Catholics in this part of Germany) with ~~an~~ ^{blood & reds} altar figures ² symbolising the dismemberment ~~of~~

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see p. above + p. 96

see p. 97

see p. 316

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of Germany. ~~It was a blood red figure in circles.~~ X

"Even in the churches the Germans are taught to feel that a great injustice has been done to them," Mark wrote for his readers back home.

"There on the ~~Border~~ the people live so close to the suffering and agitation of the past fourteen years that even as they worship Christ they come to hate the Poles.

"For two days after ~~Bentchen~~¹⁴, we rode along the Border...looking at monuments, studying maps that are everywhere, and inspecting the ~~Border~~ lines frequently so absurd as to leave one wondering whether ^{the mapmaker} ~~he~~ is sane or not. Five men taken from Milledgeville, Georgia's largest mental institution, could have drawn them a better and juster border than ^{the one} ~~that which~~ an Allied Commission, dominated by France, drew....

"The Germans have made maps of every inch of the territory and have brought out every imperfect detail. Of course, they have magnified trivialities into grave instances, but people who live with spite fences between them come to dislike even the color of the eyes of their enemies....

"We stood in half a dozen places where the

See p. 95

railroad lines had been cut and sections of the tracks removed because Germany had been given only three transit lines across the Corridor and Poland was determined she should have no more. We stood at 50 places where formerly good highways had been cut and barricaded with poles bearing the white spread eagle. We were told that at 113 places along the Corridor roads had been cut and at more than 20 places railroad lines had been snipped...."

At the Netze River, Herr Landesrat pointed out a bridge cut in the middle, leaving German freight cars stranded on the Polish side, and a town nearby ^{had been} sliced in two, the border ^{even} running through a house so that when a ^{baby} child was born the mother had to carefully pick her bedroom to be sure the child had the desired nationality.

"Each day the people of that little town see the hated barrier across the street," Mark wrote. "Each day they see the white line on the house that stands on the border; each day they see the Polish soldiers parading almost at their doorsteps, and each day they shake their fists, mentally at least, at their enemy across the way. The boys

of the German village played in fields now forbidden to them. Their old creek is only 300 or 400 yards away; the people just on the other side of the border are [✓]eight-months German, yet some great authority in Paris decreed that the border should separate them from their fields, ~~and~~ their friends, and their associations....They do not understand it. Neither do I.

"Another day we stood before a plain wooden cross, handmade of oak, erected on a little sandhill a few yards from the boundary....A few days before we were there [14 years after the border was fixed], 25,000 persons had gathered at the spot for the dedication of the cross. The sentiment on the monument was something like this: 'To the Bleeding Boundary; We await the Day of Restitution and We shall Never Cease to Work for It.' On that day when ^{Twenty-five thousand}25,000 Germans gathered there, a company of Polish troops stood a few yards away, on their side of the line, and watched. The day we visited the monument, somebody had taken a knife or scissors and had cut the inscribed ribbons on the wreaths...."

Mark ^{went on to} ~~then~~ discussed the even more seemingly absurd decisions decreed by the Commission on the

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other side of the Corridor:

"The most unnatural border in the world, I would say, is that along the Vistula on the eastern edge of the Corridor," ~~he declared.~~ The Versailles Treaty wanted to give Poland the use of the Vistula, ^{while at the same time} ~~but~~ it also desired that Germany should have free access to it.... But instead of drawing the boundary where it is natural, ^{that is,} in the middle of the river, ^{the geniuses who drew this one} ran it on the right bank....

"Eight times the curious border crosses the dikes that protect German lands from the Vistula so that in those eight parts the dikes are in Poland and the Germans may not touch them even though they break and overflow the land behind them. The senseless border has necessitated the building of new dikes by the impoverished German cities and has given rise to all sorts of complications. If a German's cow wanders down to the Vistula to have a cooling drink, the German may not bring her back without a pass...."

"I do not try to assess the blame. I know that Poland has her arguments as well as Germany. I know that Poland, with an inferiority complex,

fears Germany because Germany is efficient and aggressive-
 gressively commercial; and ~~that~~ Poland feels ~~that~~
 free commercial intercourse with Germany would
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"The Poles are also determined that none of
 their own people shall cross their borders if it
 can be helped. Their policy is ^{and} to weld the Poles
 into a nation to fuse the different elements; to
 make the former Germans quit thinking about Germany;
 to make them break their old ties....

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"The instances along the Corridor are all
 trivial in themselves, but they are not trivial
 to the people along the border... ^{nor} are they
 trivial to the German people back in Berlin and other
 parts of the Republic.... For instance, ^{In} one
 section along the Corridor, every year on a certain
 day, ^{the} the day they were separated, ^{the} the people on
 the German side burn bonfires on the hills around
 to tell their German relatives in Poland that they
 are remembered. For fourteen years they have
 lighted the bonfires to show their hatred of what
 Versailles has imposed upon them."

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The situation greatly troubled Mark. He called
 the Corridor "the most difficult and at the same time

the most dangerous strip of territory on earth."
He saw another World War in the near future. Indeed,
he felt one could break out at any moment at one of
a hundred places along the border. The fact that
Germany had lost the last war was no longer the
point, he argued. What was important was that
the Germans ~~were~~ ^{were} conscious of their suffering
and heartbreak, and their suffering ~~and~~ ^{and} heartbreak
are what Hitler is cashing in on."

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