

Sulked and Insulted and Boasted Openly of Revenge Coming

SEAMEN BETTER

Montreal, July 1 (CP).—"Sulking, swaggering louts." That was the crew's robust description of Nazis who, under guard, paraded off a big prison ship in Montreal Harbor Sunday after arriving from the United Kingdom.

They were part of a large group of German prisoners of war which Canada has offered to intern to reduce the hazards of invasion in Britain.

Outnumbering their British guards twenty to one, they sulked, obstructed and insulted during the voyage. In the words of a Cockney steward, one young airman "scuttled himself" by leaping overboard in a fanatical rage.

The Britons said the records of many of these representatives of Hitler's war machine include machine-gunning of unarmed fishing smacks and distraught refugee columns, the bombing of hospital ships, incendiарism against open towns and treacherous sabotage behind Allied lines in the guise of priests and even nuns.

The prisoners misconstrued the initial attempts of their guards at kindness, said crewmen. They thought this was British weakness or decadence. So they began to strut and boast openly of the revenge they would exact when Britain "in one month's time" was in

the hands of Hitler and Canada and the rest of the Empire were not too distant prizes.

The good-natured Tommies and the ship's crew smiled tolerantly.

One mild-mannered British engineer observed these young bullies are typical of the Nazi Germany which faces Britain across the Channel. Hitler had snatched them at a tender age seven years ago and had allowed them to learn only what was necessary for his plan of world domination.

"Aye, they are a bad lot and there's no doubt of it," the engineer commented.

But his own sense of fairness prompted him to put in hastily that, "of course, there were good 'uns, too."

There were Germans who had lived in England for some time, and who had neglected to apply for British citizenship. One said he had two sons serving in the British Army, but he accepted his fate with a shrug and told the crew he was all for rounding up the possible subversive elements, even though some innocents were taken, so that England would be there for him to live in when the war is over.

Frown on Behaviour.

Then there were the captains of some of Germany's famous passenger liners of pre-war years, captured while on transport ships off Norway. Like most of the other German merchant seamen aboard, they accepted their fate philosophically and frowned on the behaviour of their young compatriots.

When the ship docked at Montreal, the German mercantile marine captains made the rounds of the British officers and crew offering thanks for kindness and courtesy shown them.

On the other hand most of the young Nazis, just before they strode off the ship, tore to shreds the masks which had been given them as protection against possible German gas shell attacks. These gas masks were to have been returned to England to replenish civilian supplies.

The attitude of the German seamen won the appreciation of the prisonship crew, and they spared no efforts to make them comfortable.

But, they said, the young Germans adopted the swashbuckling air of pirates temporarily in irons, but with the prospect of escape and plunder in the offing.

Bragged About Navy.

The prisoners didn't hide their amazement when they found the ship sailed without escort. They had been bragging that Admiral Raeder's navy, augmented by the Italian Fleet, had swept the British Navy from the seas.

When they saw the ship apparently had a contempt for Admiral Raeder, they adopted a new line. They warned jeeringly that German naval units would soon deliver them to fight again for Hitler. This boast became less vociferous as the voyage drew to a close.

One of the most constant sources of annoyance to the British sailors was the attitude of the caste-ridden young German officers. They strode along the companionways disdainfully to budge from their course even though it meant hardship to busy members of the ship's crew.

"But what our ship's company bore with good humor was nothing to what the Tommies had to put up with," declared a member of the crew, paying tribute to the restraint and discipline of the guards.