

War Would Hit Berlin

German Capital Would
Be First City Engulfed

By DOUGLAS HOW

BERLIN — If war came, Berlin and its grey fantasy of ruins would probably be the first city engulfed.

At an island 100 miles inside a communist sea, its small Allied garrison would be swamped and

surrounded from the start. Its 2,500,000 West Berliners would be in immediate danger of falling under a rule they detest and resist.

If any city should live in fear of war, it is Berlin. Yet people who should know call it the sanest city in Europe.

Its lack of hysteria surprises soldiers posted here from the Allied zone to the west and who come in thinking that here is the real frontier in the cold war.

The reason, one veteran correspondent says, is that Berlin has seen so much, has been drained by so many crises, heard so many cries of wolf that its

power of hysteria have been sapped. But perhaps part of it is in the ruins.

Even after six years of reconstruction which Allied officials call incredible, Berlin's ruins stagger and numb the mind. They are grey, ghastly.

When, for instance, you are driving down what used to be the magnificence of the Unter Den Linden and a bell rings out the noon hour from the scrawny, feeble tower that is the last shell of an entire church, something deeper than fear and darker than awe creeps and chills inside you.

Four million Germans and thousands of foreign soldiers live amid Berlin's mixture of ruin and reconstruction, its bright lights and hills of rubble, its strange island of internationalism in which four divided conquerors live not unlike the conquerors of old among a resurgent, defeated people who wish they would all go home.

In Berlin—first city to be declared out of bounds to Canada's 27th Brigade—American, British and French troops march and parade to show the people that the west is here and the west will fight. But there are only 20,000 troops in all. The British have eight tanks. There is a plan of action for this tiny garrison in event of war but it is secret.

The Germans, in both Allied and Russian sectors, work like beavers, dislike all four occupying powers, build, build, build and have decades of rebuilding ahead of them and leave you with no doubt at all that Germany will once again be one of the powers in the world.

The Russians keep to themselves and leave their sector of Berlin largely to the East German Communist police.

Allied officers live in the best and better homes, utilize cheap German service largely at German expense—one Major has three servants and a chauffeur at relatively little cost.

Radio stations, 18 newspapers and even night club entertainers fight the cold war's propaganda battles but a story they tell about a Russian officer seems to say more about the mood of Berlin than all this clamor of hate.

At a cocktail party, a British General told him he was going home to command an airborne division. The Russian asked the general if he would parachute himself and the general said only if there were war.

"War?" said the Russian with a little smile. "Who are you going to fight?"

VETERAN CYCLIST

POLEGATE, Sussex, England — George Jeffries, 79, oldest member of a local cycling club, rides a lightweight racing machine. He still rides with youngsters and makes regular 70-mile visits to a sister at Ealing, a London suburb.

AFTER 27 YEARS

LONDON — William Cranmer deserted his wife 27 years ago. Then he won a newspaper crossword puzzle contest. His wife saw his name, made some inquiries—and now claims maintenance arrears totalling £164.



HOMESPUN STRADIVARIUS—George Hawryluk, 67-year-old Edmonton cobbler, spends his leisure hours manufacturing and repairing stringed instruments. The sign outside his shop reads "Shoe and Violin Repairs." Here the Austrian-born shoe repairman beams on one of his home-made cellos. At his right is a block of maple from which he fashioned the instrument. (CP PHOTO)

THE EXPERTS Say...

By KOY REX
Canadian Press Staff Writer

WHEN "COMPANY" DROPS IN—As certain as Christmas trees and Santa Claus, all kinds of "company" will be dropping in the next couple of weeks.

Whether they come for dinner or an evening visit mother will want them to try her Christmas cake. And, of course, there's always home made candy.

Where possible candy-making should be left to the young ones. It gives them a feeling of importance to be able to help with the actual holiday preparations. Even the six- and seven-year-olds should be encouraged to try a hand at the baking.

Stuffed dates are an easy-to-make and delightful "sweet" which for some families are as symbolic of Christmas as turkey and cranberry sauce.

Buy the big dessert dates, remove stones and fill centre with an icing-sugar mixture. For an added Christmas touch, this may be colored with red or green food coloring. Then roll dates in powdered sugar and arrange on plates.

TREE SWEETS—Why not decorate the Christmas tree this year with old-fashioned popcorn balls?

Ingredients: One cup honey, one cup sugar, one-half cup water, one teaspoon salt, one teaspoon vanilla extract.

Combine honey, sugar, water and salt in sauce pan. Place over low heat, stirring until mixture begins to boil. Cook to firm ball stage (250°F). Remove from heat. Add vanilla and stir only to blend well.

Pour slowly over three quarts popped corn in large bowl. Lightly grease the hands or rinse them in cold water and press corn into balls. Wrap in waxed paper. Yield: eight medium popcorn balls.

Honey-almond balls also are good for Christmas.

INGREDIENTS—Four ounces (squares) unsweetened chocolate; one-half cup liquid honey, one-



Ald. Daggett Is Gracious

Ex-Mayor H. M. Daggett, defeated in the contest for the mayoralty at yesterday's civic election, was quick last night to wish, through the Daily News, success to the new mayor and council in their work. He made gracious congratulatory comments in regard to Mayor-Elect Harold Whalen.

Gratification was expressed by Mr. Daggett in regard to the referendum results although he said he would have liked to have seen a more decisive endorsement of the proposal, which he fathered, of requesting the British Columbia Power Commission to come in and supply power.

quarter teaspoon cinnamon; one-eighth teaspoon salt; one-half cup finely chopped, blanched almonds.

Melt chocolate over hot water. Add honey, cinnamon and salt. Beat well, add almonds. Chill until firm enough to handle. Form into small balls about one inch in diameter. Roll balls in icing sugar or finely desiccated coconut. Yield: 30 balls.

TWAS THE NIGHT — If you're planning a party for Christmas Eve remember that everyone eats a large variety of foods at Christmas time and simple but attractive party fare will be enjoyed.

Shortbread cookies are good and also easy to make.

INGREDIENTS: One-quarter cup shortening, three-quarters cup butter; three-quarters cup brown sugar; 2½ cups flour; pinch of salt. Roll in balls, put a dint in middle and put in a piece of Maraschino cherry before baking in oven.



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per T. B. BLACK

Tiny Choir to Sing for King

By MARY BURNETT

SANDRINGHAM, England (Reuters)—The choir of tiny St. Mary Magdalene Church here is hard at work practising carols to sing before the squire at Christmas.

The squire—King George—will spend his traditional Christmas on the royal estate here.

Everyone on the estate is getting ready for the holiday visit, and the woodsmen are out looking for a suitable Christmas tree for the King and family.

The usual royal Christmas is an informal, family affair. Shortly before Christmas, the royal train brings the King and his family to the private station at Wolferton.

For two or three days the King, usually wearing a kilt and thick tweed jacket, walks round the estate inspecting stock and often stopping to chat with tenants in the country lanes.

On Christmas Eve, the King, the Queen, the princesses and members of the household put final touches to the Christmas tree in the ballroom and wrap up Christmas presents.

These are usually exchanged among the members of the royal family after breakfast on Christmas morning.

In the morning the royal family attend a service at the Sandringham church, taking their places quietly in the congregation.

After lunch, the King makes his annual speech to the Commonwealth and Empire, broadcast from his study.

After dinner, the family gathers round a bright log fire to sing Christmas carols or listen to Princess Margaret, the King's younger daughter, play the piano.

For many days before Christmas, mail pours in from all parts of the world. Christmas cards from personal friends decorate

the mantelpieces.

The King and Queen have their own Christmas card, sending out several hundred each year to their friends.

This year their card, also used by Princess Margaret, is a water color mounted on pastel blue, by John Nash. It shows Buckingham Palace, the King's London residence, in 1864.

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