

In Reich, Too, Soap Brings Social Success---as Gift

BY LARRY ALLEN.

(Just Repatriated from a German Prison Camp).

NEW YORK, June 9 (AP). — A hundred thousand German girls, tossing coupling links about as if they were powderpuffs, are working on the Reich's great railway system.

Tens of thousands of others are in the luftwaffe with specially picked squads of "blitz" girls for rescue work and cleanups after Allied bombings.

Germany is proud of her almost complete mobilization of woman-power.

Her press says the German girl gives all. It claims a contrast with women in the United States who are depicted as preferring to show their legs and cling to easy, high-paid jobs rather than to sacrifice for their country.

The German railway girl comes in all types and sizes, but her dress is consistent. It's a blue jacket with brass buttons, and full-length

blue trousers; an overseas cap with the Nazi eagle and lettering "Deutsches Reichsbahn."

During my eight months as a prisoner of war in Germany I was transported through all sections of the nation except the Berlin area, constantly impressed by the girls.

They do a man's job, whether it's coupling cars, inspecting brakes, or "smashing baggage." But they have their weaknesses.

On my last trip through southern and western Germany toward freedom, I gave a blond conductress a bar of soap.

It meant her first real bath in many months.

While another girl kept my guards occupied, she sat down beside me in the blackedout, third class carriage.

Suddenly, her arms were around my neck and she gave me my first kiss in nearly two years—a real kiss, too.

It's wonderful what a bar of soap will do!