

# Americans Too Soft For Job, Ex-POWs Think

(Editor's Note—After four years of active service, two of which were spent in the Central and South Pacific, Brig. Gen. Julius Ochs Adler recently returned to his duties as vice president on the New York Times. He is one of a group of newspaper executives now engaged in surveying the atrocity camps in Germany by invitation of General Eisenhower.)

BY JULIUS OCHS ADLER.

PARIS, (NANA).—There would be no easy peace terms for Germany and no distinction made among the Germans as to their responsibility for Germany's crimes if the American prisoners of war I interviewed had their

## U. S. Suicide Corps Seen if Japs Were Here

BY GORDON COBBLEDICK.

OKINAWA (NANA).—The closer we get to Japan the greater becomes the willingness of the Japanese warriors to die.

They have their kamikaze corps, the fliers who try, without distinguished success, to dive their bomb-laden planes into the decks of American warships.

They have their tank-destroyer volunteers, the soldiers who throw themselves under the tracks of American tanks with loads of TNT in their pockets.

They have their suicide boats and their suicide infiltration squads, who sneak into American lines at night, unarmed except for the "satchel charges" they carry—bags of high explosives strapped to their backs.

Two officers of an infantry regiment on Ie were discussing the enemy's suicidal tendencies and one of them said the Japs' apparent eagerness to die was, to him, the most disturbing aspect of the war.

"We don't want to go in and wipe out a whole nation," he said, "and yet what else can we do when those people are so willing to be wiped out? It sickens me sometimes when I think that every time we invade an island—Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa—we're going to have to kill every last Jap. Then don't fight until they see they're licked and then give up. They fight until they decide it's time to kill themselves. That bothers me. They can't be quite human."

Acts Seem Crazy.

"Sure, they're human," the other officer objected. "They do things that seem crazy to us, but I imagine that if the situation were reversed we'd be doing the same sort of things. Now take those kamikazes—"

"You're not going to sit there and tell me," the first man interrupted, "that we could have a kamikaze corps in the United States. Our kids aren't built that way. They haven't any screwy ideas about the glory of dying for the emperor and you couldn't sell it to 'em; they've got better sense."

"I'll tell you what I believe," said the other officer thoughtfully.

way. They were men of the "recovered Allied military personnel"—returning prisoners of war—assembled at a camp on their way home. I visited them in the company of other members of the editors and publishers group touring the front and France on the invitation of supreme Allied headquarters.

The men I talked with included more than a score of noncoms and more than 150 privates, mostly from New York, but some were from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and other states.

The first question I put to them was this: If they had President Truman's job and could decide the fate of Germany, what would they decide? Spontaneously and overwhelmingly they said: "We would turn it over to the Russians." When I asked why, they said, first, that the Americans did not understand the German problem while the Russians did because of their war experience; second, that the Americans would consequently make too soft a peace.

All Germans Responsible.

Did they hold all Germans generally responsible or only some Germans? The answer to this was equally overwhelming, indeed apparently unanimous. They said the Germans all were responsible. They told of having been marched along German streets as prisoners, of women having spit at them, of men having jeered at them, of boys having thrown stones at them.

At the prison camps they were stripped of watches, rings, fountain pens, money and all other personal property. The medical prisoners were stripped of medical supplies. Many noncoms were deprived of their identity papers so that they were classed with privates in violation of the Geneva convention, they said.

They said that they were always short of food and lost on an average 30 to 35 pounds during imprisonment, that they received one blanket each in the winter and slept on wooden or concrete floors, that they got one razor blade in 10 days, that many never were paid anything, that they had one bath a month with luck, but mostly practically all had dysentery and lice. Red Cross food parcels were God-sends when the Germans did not steal them.

Brutality Bared.

These men told of no massive atrocities or torture but of much brutality. For example, Sgt. Marcellino Atela, New York, said he saw two marching prisoners break ranks to pick up sugar beets and that their guards fired, killing one and wounding two in the group. Sgt. Joseph B. Skebinski of Scranton, Pa., of the 28th Infantry Division, said that on a similar march to prison the men who fell out of ranks to pick up beets were knocked down and kicked in the ribs by the guards, after which they had a kilometer to march and that one man died that night as a result.

It was the airmen and paratroops who got the worst treatment, these prisoners said. Sgt. John J. Plotts of Lincoln, Ill., told of 200 airmen and paratroopers who after a journey in a train, had been handcuffed in twos, and marched from the railway station to a camp. Each carried strapped on his back a Red Cross parcel obtained at the previous camp.