

# Rural Reich Almost Untouched by War

BY AMON CARTER.

(The writer is a member of a party of American publishers and editors who have been invited by the War Department to visit Germany and to inspect at first hand the prisoner of war camps and the internment centers.)

CENTRAL GERMANY (By Wireless).—The Germans appear to be returning to a very normal status in the basic agricultural industry of the country and, outside of the industrial cities, the country seems virtually untouched by the war. Flying across western Germany and riding through the countryside it is strange to see fat cattle and sheep, fields green with spring wheat, oats and barley and peasants plowing with fat, sleek oxen, those things you have not seen in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, where this German made war has left its ugliest marks of devastation. Looking down on the industrial city of Kassel from a plane, for instance, it is evident that our air corps did an excellent job of pinpoint high level bombing of factories there.

It would have been a valuable thing if all of the people at home could have been with us to visit the 341 Texans with whom I talked. These released war prisoners, emaciated from months and in some cases years of starvation on a German prison camp diet of grass soup and black bread, were awaiting return to America. Other American publishers and I visited the great port of Antwerp, where Allied engineers have done a tremendous job in repairing and rehabilitating the shipping facilities damaged by German demolition and our own bombing.

We conferred in Brussels with the Belgian prime minister, the

district governor and the burgo-master, and were interested by their argument that Germany should be split up into a number of small states after this war, with strict controls to keep them disarmed. Everywhere I have stopped it has been heartening to find the homelike cordiality and welcoming

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## EDNA FERBER

The first dispatch of a series by Edna Ferber, famed American author, on her reactions to a trip to the European war zone appears in today's Star-Telegram on Page 8.

## U. S. Seizes Anthracite Coal Mines

WASHINGTON, May 3 (INS).—Solid Fuels Administrator Ickes seized Thursday night 363 Pennsylvania anthracite mines pursuant to an executive order issued by President Truman.

It was the third time since the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor that the government had taken possession of the strike

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handshakes of the Texans over here.

Wednesday, for instance, a plane set me down on an airport in Central Germany. Among the first persons I met on the field was Lt. D. W. Bacon of Route 10, Box 335, Fort Worth, a Thunderbolt fighter group liaison officer, who presented me with some captured German souvenirs and asked me to autograph a big Nazi flag. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bacon and in his 14 months overseas he has flown 36 combat missions, has been named in a presidential unit citation and has three clusters for his Air Medal.

Miss Ann N. Cotten, who lives at Lake Worth, will be interested to know that young Drew Bacon is looking fine and in excellent spirits. While Drew and I were talking a tall, red-haired sergeant, B. J. Alexander of Frederick, Okla., walked up under the wing of the plane where we had taken shelter from a shower and shook hands.

Bacon called over to Lt. C. L. Thomas of Cisco, another fighter pilot, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas of Cisco. Thomas has flown 82 missions and was awarded the DFC for completing his mission last summer in Normandy after his plane had been damaged badly by flak. His jacket has the "Ripper" lettered on it and Thomas is a fine flying soldier.

There have been many others along the way, including Lt. Col. J. F. Tudor, at the released prisoner port of embarkation, who asked me to pass along his regards to E. O. Tudor, 3015 University Dr., Fort Worth, and Miss Mable Crane in the purchasing and contracting division at Camp Howze, Gainesville, and Miss Juanita Croft of Mineral Wells.

At another air field in France I met Pfc. B. E. Dickerson who asked me to say hello for him to Miss Reggy Glover of Pecos, who is a student in TCU.

There also was time to chat in a French city with Lt. Col. James L. Bullard Jr., whose father lives

at 1015 S. Jennings, Fort Worth.

Thursday I have visited Gen. Omar N. Bradley at his 12th Army Group headquarters and before the day is over expect to see Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson at his 9th Army headquarters. That should bring us within a short distance of a prisoner of war camp from which we hope to see many American boys and perhaps a few Texans released soon.

Judging by the number of German generals walking in and surrendering their divisions, the master race is rapidly losing its enthusiasm for conquering the world.

## 33 Texas Officers Will Aid War Vets

WASHINGTON, May 3 (AP).—War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt said Thursday the U. S. Employment Service plans to set up 33 new employment offices in Texas to help returning war veterans.

Texans now leaving the armed forces have been estimated unofficially here at 20,000 monthly.

In a letter to Senator Connally of Texas, McNutt said, of cities concerned, in some instances "itinerant offices" already have been set up, but these will be made permanent along with others yet to be established.

Cities selected are Sulphur Springs, Center, Liberty, Terrell, Athens, Jacksonville, Crockett, Huntsville, Freeport, San Marcos, Cameron, Gatesville, Cleburne, Denton, Alice, Gonzales, Kingsville, Seguin, Falfurrias, Midland, Eastland.

Stamford, Mineral Wells, Dumas, Colorado City, Lamesa, Brownfield, Floydada, Fredericksburg, Lampasas, Del Rio, Kerrville and Coleman.

## 14 Fliers Jump to Safety as Plane Burns

PYOTE, May 3 (AP).—Fourteen fliers parachuted to safety Wednes-