

Many Canadians Study; German Students Work

Ex-Wehrmacht Officers Undergo Change Of Attitude Since War

By JACK MACCORMACK

I was sitting in the lounge of Plon castle talking to a German student from Hamburg University. It developed that he had served on U-Boats during the war until the Gestapo nabbed him for "disloyal talk."

He told me how he had sailed from Germany in 1943 as a radio operator on board the latest type of sub—fast enough to catch even the Queen Elizabeth on the surface—equipped with an 8 inch gun and 48 torpedoes.

"We sailed from Germany to Greenland," he said, "thence south to Halifax."

"And when did you get to Halifax?" I asked, trying to appear casual, "About the 20th of July" he replied. "What a coincidence" I gulped, "I sailed from Halifax on the Queen Elizabeth along with 180,000 other Canadians on the 24th of July 1943."

He was an interesting character in other ways too. An ex-ham, he lost no time after the war in building a "rig". (strictly against occupation regulations). For months he carried on conversations with hams outside Germany and partially escaped the prevailing German claustrophobia. Finally the authorities caught up with him and confiscated his transmitter. He hopes that the rules will change soon. Those outside contacts meant a lot to him.

We had a fairly rich mixture in our room. Besides Al Smith from Dal whose linguistic abilities, by the way, amazed the other Canadians, there was Johnny Campbell from St. F. X., Ralph Mosher from Acadia and George Graham from U.N.B. Four Germans and a Dane rounded out our roomfull.

Of the Germans, Hans from Gottingen and Ernst from Dusseldorf were the most interesting.

Hans was an ex Wehrmacht officer. Called up in 1937 at which time, as he said, he was an ardent 17 year old Nazi, he had just completed the required two years training when the war broke. He took part in such outings as the invasion of Poland in '39 and the assault on the Netherlands and

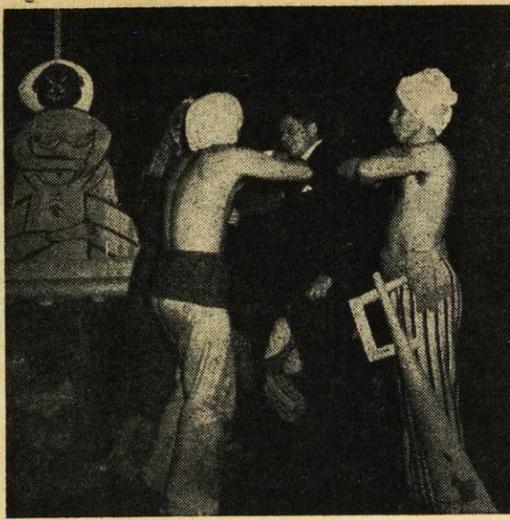
France in 1940. He fought for two years in Russia and wound up commanding a battalion in the Battle of The Bulge.

Now Hans is studying education at the University of Gottingen, hopes to work in a Teachers College.

His present outlook on life can perhaps be best illustrated by this story: In addition to the 20 books which we were all required to bring from Canada I took one of my own: Trevelyan's "Social History of England." It's an excellent book and it wasn't on my table long before Hans spotted it. He read it like a starving man wolfs a steak. When he had finished it he started making a digest. He spent laborious hours copying the best passages and when I belatedly made a present of it, his gratitude was both touching and embarrassing. In exchange he forced me to accept one of his own books, doubtless a cherished possession. It was written in German — a fact that Mrs. Richter should find amusing—and like all books produced in Germany to-day, the binding was practically worthless.

This story isn't meant to prove that all ex-Wehrmacht officers have undergone a change of heart—persons capable of rising above their environment are rare in any land—but that such things do happen even in present day Germany.

There are people in Germany, rare and the more precious for their rarity, who are desperately seeking a new basis. Hans is one of



C'MON PADRE, HAVE A DRINK — Middle Bay Hindus supply refreshments to the King's missionary, who becomes so fortified by the brew that he falls for one of the "dancing girls."



IS THIS A BOTTLE THAT I SEE BEFORE ME? — Pete Hannington, the Wolf in Chapel Bay's "Red Riding Hood," pauses in his chase of the little girl through the forest to try and snare a bottle that appears suddenly.

Bottles Prominent As Thespians Ignore The Old King's Tradition

By O. BURPY
Gazette Drama Critic

Bottles and dancing girls were prominent at the King's interbay drama festival held this week, with North Pole emerging the victor with a satire on Little Red Riding Hood which featured her coming out of the See Hoarse chased by a Wolf (Pete Hannington, above).

Horrible Hindus

Playwright Denne Burchill of Middle Bay produced a show advertised as the "Horrible Hindus" which displayed a King's missionary in an Indian temple succumbing to the charms of two seductive "dancing girls", played by hairy males, after the missionary had imbibed heartily from a can marked "Brew".

Theologue's Radical Bay came across with the best audience torture of the evening with a long recitation of Tam O'Shanter, with a couple of weird scenes tagging along somehow. Alexandra Hall came across with a takeoff on radio plays, featuring a melodrama entitled "The Mortgage Expired At Midnight". North Pole Bay entered at the last minute with Desperate Dan McGrew, with the most realistic den of iniquity we have

ever seen filled with iniquitous characters.

Excepting only Alexandra Hall, the main feature of all plays was the prominence of bottled goods. Outside observers felt that perhaps the fine old tradition was a little tainted.

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these and his lonely quest is continually frustrated for lack of good books from "outside".

In a German bookshop I found copies of an interesting digest type magazine. It is produced by the British and is designed for Germany I was struck by such outstanding names on the cover as Albert Schweitzer and Arthur Schlesinger. The proprietor agreed that it was a fine magazine but pointed out that such things could not possibly replace books. He said that he had not seen a book published outside Germany since the war ended. "These are raisins," he said, "we need loaves of bread".

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