

Even under circumstances of disorganization, destitution and hunger, the discipline and orderliness inherent in the German race was maintained as a rule and there was little increase in the normal incidence of crime among them. There was a willingness to obey the Ordinances of the Supreme Commander and while there was a fair amount of "black marketeering" and offences against the curfew laws, there were few cases of a more serious nature such as possession of arms and acts hostile to the occupying troops.

An enormous crime problem was created in Germany by D.P.s however. To tackle this the Public Safety Branch of Military Government had a German police organization undermanned, unarmed, and demoralized, and the qualified assistance of the occupational troops.

During the first days of the occupation when many D.P.s were still on farms or in factories and those in camps were without supervision, a chaotic situation

of lawlessness existed. Murder, rape and robbery with violence were commonplace. Dwellings were attacked and looted nightly, cyclists were knocked on the head in broad daylight and their valuables, bicycles and often their clothes taken. No civilian was safe on the road, and at night people barricaded their homes and slept fitfully in fear.

After a few weeks when the occupying troops became static and the Military Government organization was firmly established, conditions began to improve. But even so, eight months after the surrender of Germany rarely a night passed in the area covered by this article without a report of an armed raid on a farm resulting more often than not in a murder.

Although by this time many of the strangers had been repatriated, armed gangs remained who would steal out of their hiding-places in the forest after nightfall. Going to a farm previously observed by scouts perhaps for days, the gang would post look-outs, cut telephone

A town surrenders and the inhabitants leave cover. Prominent in the picture is a typical German air-raid shelter or "bunker".

