

This is known in Spain, of course. In the Balkans there is a regular army with Allied armament and officers. In Russia there are at least 3 million "partisans," and the French "maquis" is believed to hold more than 1 million. Special rewards have been instituted to stimulate the conflict against these bands, which many times during my visits to the east obliged our group to wait and even to turn back. I have heard firing in Paris during the night, on my way through the French capital going to or coming from Spain. So long as Europe believed in a German triumph these terroristic groups were few in number and all very genuine. Since then their numbers have been swollen with the inevitable fishers in muddy water. These groups are in continual movement, and they force the civil population to collaborate with them, thus creating a state of disquietude on the one part and of hope on the other. The rebels carry on their war of liberation with a certain romantic air, and this, joined to the spirit of clandestine conspiracy against the invader, has not failed to wake an echo in other countries in a similar case. Into the bargain the members of these bands give guarantees for the future to all those who protect them. So they have succeeded in turning against Germany the occupied countries, where everything is sabotage, where the orders of the bandits are regularly followed, and where every day a pebble of some kind is thrown into war machinery which can only work at all if it works perfectly.

Apart from open attacks and sabotage and even minor conflicts in the field, what it is even more important to set down is the state of general unwillingness which is thus produced. All the time men are pretending to be ill, small unnoticeable acts are taking place which interfere with the free running of the machine, tools are left to rust, barracks where workers are housed are left to fall into dilapidation. The factories which work for Germany work with an eternal ca'canny, and the German police frequently has to intervene. The supplies which are stored in occupied zones disappear and are sold again on the black market. The odd thing is that perhaps the chief buyers of the stores which thus have been stolen are the Germans themselves. The higher employees of the Reich are disciplined and rigid, but are unmoral. In Germany itself the German feels that he is a member of the community, subject to its laws and its sanctions, but Germany's sons abroad seem to be of the opinion that German laws are only to be observed in German territory. So in France one may see a German paying 2,000 fr. without a shrug for a meal in Maxim's in Paris, whereas in "Eden" in Berlin he shouts like a maniac if his bottle of Moselle costs more than 5 marks. And this is not due to any sense of saving, because the German knows that the franc is really to-day much better value than the mark, that with the franc you can buy something and with the mark you can't.

At the present moment the problem of the occupied countries has ceased to be a mere matter of rebellion, for various political treasons have come to complicate matters. France laid the first bricks as it were. How many people must have been complicated in Giraud's flight, and what undeniable weakness was shown then, by Germans, too. Italy brought matters to a head and then other Powers followed suit. Exhausted Finland is trying to get out of the war with some honour left. Denmark has demanded and has won her autonomy. But Germany has to intensify her firmness, convinced now that her allies only stay with her through fear and not through feeling. "We are alone! We are alone!" the Germans say to one, afflicted by the fatal fashion which solitariness is rubbed in by country after country, by their conflict against a world of interests which are suffocating them. They feel themselves crushed by the wealth and the wide realms of their adversaries, factors which never have failed to make them lose every war after having gained every battle.

One may speak frankly now of civil war, not only in Yugoslavia and behind the Eastern Front, but in France itself. When we were travelling through France in December 1943 there were districts, as much as 60 kilom. long, which we were obliged to skirt in order not to encounter insurgent bands who were fighting the police. When a group of Germans went to obtain their meat ration in the Paris slaughter-houses, they were seized and bound, and shut into the refrigerators, where they all died frozen. In Yugoslavia, Sarajevo is surrounded by a cordon of rebels who belong neither to Tito or Mihailovitch, but have gone into the field and set up for themselves. They attack trains and rob the mails. The wife of one of the correspondents in Berlin, who was of Serbian extraction, hastened there to rescue her mother. The mother belonged to the German minority, and had been dispossessed of her property by the Reich in return for payments in marks. Into the bargain a rebel group entered her house one day, murdered her