

Germany

From there we went to Germany and I was delighted when I met for the first time Dr. Heuss, the President of the German Republic. He is a man with a long university career, and with the appearance and the charm of a man of great culture. He confirmed the impression we had all formed of Chancellor Adenauer when he was here and which was also confirmed by the impression made upon me by the Chancellor's colleagues in the ministry, namely that the leaders in these days in Germany are looking to a future where gains will not be dependent upon war but where they will be the result of good international relations between that country and all its neighbours. I think that the Chancellor and his colleagues are most anxious to provide for a future where they will be allowed to live and where it will be their pleasure and satisfaction to let others live alongside of them.

I then had the privilege of visiting the troops at Soest under Brigadier Anderson. The barracks that are being provided there are magnificent. Everything has not yet been done but I should just like to give one little illustration that impressed me. When I asked the Brigadier about the school facilities, he said they were coming along but that his own young son who is 7½ years old was attending the German public school. When I reported that fact to the Chancellor, who I found had already heard of it, he said that our men were all behaving in the manner best calculated to make them accepted as true and sincere friends and as people for whom his German population would always have respect and admiration.

The next day we flew to Gros Tenquin. There I found the morale of our men to be very high, in spite of the fact that all the difficulties have not yet been overcome for them. The commander of the squadrons there, with his wife and their three children, are still living in a trailer but for that I had admiration. The officers are giving the men the impression that whatever are the difficulties, they are no greater for the men than they are for the officers themselves. I think that is one of the explanations of this high morale I found everywhere among our troops. They all felt that they were human units in a joint endeavour being made by themselves and by those who were commanding them. It was at Gros Tenquin that we had our first disappointment. We had expected to go the same afternoon to Zweibruecken but the weather was still bad; we were experiencing the seasonal continental weather at that time. The plane that had gone from Gros Tenquin to Paris to bring the Ambassador up to take part in our visit had not been able to put down at Paris and had come back without him and we were not able to get into Zweibruecken. I am sorry because I greatly appreciated the privilege of saying to these men, on your behalf, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of my colleagues, that we realize that they are doing a large portion of our share in this general undertaking to maintain peace in the world. The time that we would have taken to visit Zweibruecken was taken up by visiting Guesslin one of these farming villages in Lorraine. I must confess that I was somewhat depressed at the feeling that there might be still quite a large number of these villages or farming communities in France - the like of which we have not in this country - which do not appear to have changed greatly through many of the past decades. But every person we saw seemed to be good humoured and seemed to feel that