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2 PF 2001

THE PATTERN OF COLLAPSE

German cities captured, prisoners taken, distances covered, are no longer the most important aspect of the war in the west. Here is Limburg, a score or so miles north west of Frankfurt, but now as these pictures are shown Limburg will be well down the mounting list of fallen towns. We are watching now the collapse of a nation and the death of an evil regime; there lies the importance. Deutsche folk are glad enough now of the White flag of truce, the people who for eleven years terrorised the world under the swastika.

A German spokesman gives out the Allied Military Government's instructions to the civilian population. Exhorted by Nazi Leaders to fight on as "werewolves," most of the people seem more anxious to be sheep than wolves.

After Limburg the drive goes on towards one of the biggest prizes since Cologne. G.I's of General Patton's U.S. Third Army file along a Hitler "Autobahn" into Frankfurt, third largest city of the Reich.

Mopping up, the final stage in the capture of a city is repeated in town after town on the shortening road to Berlin.

The men and women of Warsaw in 1939 and Stalingrad in 1942, all fought fiercely in defence of their homes. Most of the German towns so far captured have been quick to show the white flag. But only a fool would repose trust in a German. Frankfurt to-day is a sample of the destruction Hitler has brought upon so much of Europe, and now, in terrible measure, upon Germany herself.

Propaganda posters call on Germans, young and old, to resist to the last. But once beyond the reach of the revolvers and rubber truncheons of the Gestapo, they don't seem to be in any doubt about whether Hitler has lost the war.

They look well-fed and reasonably well clothed, these German civilians. In the four years the Wehrmacht ruled over most of Europe, booty poured into the Reich. Now, since there's no one else to loot, their own shops are pillaged.

A train-load of clothing scheduled to move into Central Germany is mobbed by men and women, in whose gestures can be read the whole story of

of the disintegration of German morale.

Looting goes on unchecked. A glaring illustration of the state of things in Germany as she goes down. Soldiers and civilians alike throw overboard all sense of discipline and the last traces of a coordinated plan to resist. The Third Reich is crumbling to its dishonoured grave.
