

45-62001

FRAT BAN ON - FRAT BAN OFF

The number of well-dressed women still parading Berlin proves that Germany hasn't yet lost all the proceeds of Hitler's years of successful robbery. British Desert Rats, before the Fratting Ban was lifted, got in a spot of bathing in the Olympic Stadium pool. Here there were no girls and in the Konigs Garten there were very few men. In the main our soldiers obeyed orders when fraternising was barred and the girls did their dancing on their own. Berliners spend Sunday afternoons in these public gardens, drinking near beer and dancing.

In the Nurenberger Strasse, Berlin's most famous night club soon forget its former Nazi guests and turned on phoney glitter for the Allies. Russian officers, to whom the fraternisation ban never really applied, set the pace. British and Americans sat around in strictly stag parties.

One set of rules for Russians and another for British and Americans obviously couldn't last. But these scenes after the lifting of the ban show remarkably few British soldiers sharing the dubious pleasures of German company. Remember, too, that thousands of girls in Berlin are Allied nationals, imported to Germany as slave workers.

The Wann See, the great lake between Charlottenburg and Potsdam is in the American sector. There's bathing and a beautiful beach - but don't think the boys wouldn't swap it for a day at Blackpool or Coney Island.

But it's not all beer and skittles in Berlin. These pictures tell what happened when squads of German civilian police, acting on Allied orders, cleaned up the city's Black Market. Troops are not interfered with, but civilians are searched and any found with Allied army goods or food are bundled off to Police Headquarters for questioning.

Pathe Gazette cameraman Kenneth Gordon took these pictures as a corrective to any ideas that may be going around that the end of the frat ban means that British Tommies have short memories. The average man there neither forgets nor forgives.