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BERLIN READY FOR WINTER

In the British Sector, the 4th winter of Occupation brings another war to beleaguered Berlin, the Battle to survive. Empty shop windows create a new bartering centre for Berliners. Notices advertising articles for exchange create a pavement market where strangers meet by appointment for the daily swap.

Under the stress of the Russian blockade, rations are pared down to the minimum necessary to keep bodies alive. But Berliners still try to keep up appearances. Few shops can afford candles and the barber takes his business out into the street.

Power-outs limit housewives to two hours of home lighting a day. Everywhere, household duties go by the clock. While one district sleeps, the day begins in another.

Berlin's weeded parks - once the City's pride - are now the City's fuel. Coal delivered by air is reserved for essential industries, and for the sick. Necessity makes no other distinctions.

Foraging parties venture miles beyond the city limits.

To the outside world, Berlin's plight may seem the stern retribution of war. So that the young may not suffer in the shambles of Hitler's capital, the British authorities are evacuating sickly and under-nourished children. Many were born after the war had ended - and for them, mercy demands the price of separation.

On Gatow airfield, where incoming R.A.F. freighter deliver in day and night relays the means to Berlin's survival, aircraft reload with human cargoes. Beyond Europe's other Iron Curtain - the encirclement of Berlin - lies the hope of health for the victims of power politics. The wings of mercy snatch the innocent from the perils of another winter in Berlin.