

BERLIN NEWS PARADE

Against the background of the Brandenburger Tor - that symbol of Berlin - German stonemasons dismantle another Berlin landmark. It is the statue of Wilhelm the First - grandfather of the Kaiser of World War One and the man who put into power Bismark, the Iron Chancellor, who founded the first German Reich. The memorial will be melted down. Elsewhere in the city, as every year on Red Army Day, Soviet troops march to the Tiergarten, in the British sector, to lay wreaths on the Soviet memorial - scene of their last pitched battle with the Germans. Holding pacifist ceremonies among "Western warmongers" is, of course, a little embarrassing, so this year, most of the Soviet celebrating is done at a new memorial in the Russian sector. It's a seventy-foot statue in the centre of a half-mile square, built of marble from Hitler's Chancellery. Here, joined by "friendly" civilians, whose wreaths give dutiful thanks to the Red Army that "liberated" them, the Russians can celebrate, safe from the prying eyes of their allies in victory.