MILITARY GOVERNMENT

NUMBER 34 — 23 MARCH 1946

WEEKLY INFORMATION BULLETIN
NO. 34 — 23 MARCH 1946

MILITARY GOVERNMENT

WEEKLY
INFORMATION BULLETIN

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT (U.S.)
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER

REPORTS AND INFORMATION BRANCH
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Government Directives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHLIGHTS OF POLICY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J'Accuse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A German News Service Is Born</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dependents Are Coming To The Eto</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Bring Them Back...Unless A Job Exists</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN REACTIONS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We And The Occupation</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art For Art's Sake</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESS COMMENTS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columns</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station List</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A GERMAN NEWS SERVICE IS BORN

DANA, the German News Agency, operates under the direction of Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure, GSC, Director of Information Control, OMGG (US). Its origin, problems, and potentialities are discussed here from the point of view of the democratization of Germany by the Germans.

Restoring news service to Germany after the long blackout under the nazis presents problems very different from those involved in restoring coal production or similar economic functions. A piece of coal has a constant thermal value which is not affected by the convictions of the man who mines it; a news story, on the contrary, is completely dependent on the convictions of its author. No long argument is needed here; it is enough to recall the perverted ravings of Dr. Goebbels or the weird twists given to events by other nazi "publicists."

DEMOCRATIC JOURNALISTS RARE

Because of this peculiarly pliable character of the printed word, it was difficult to find journalists who could be trusted with the job of rebuilding a free German press. The influence of good and bad newspapers is enormous. Obviously this influence must be wielded in the cause of democracy and international cooperation in Germany both now and later if this particularly troubled nation is to be rehabilitated. It is therefore not sufficient to find competent newsmen who were no more than nominal nazis; their past records must be anti-nazi in order to assure their future performance. Such men are rare in Germany. The nazis were particularly implacable in their pursuit of anyone who possessed democratic convictions and the courage of them, and who was able to express himself clearly and forcefully; and this is precisely the type of man which is required to reconstruct the German press. Nevertheless, not even nazi thoroughness was totally effective; it has therefore been possible to authorize publication of a number of papers in the U.S. Zone.

NATIONAL NEWS NEEDED

Merely authorizing publication of a newspaper and providing facilities and staff to produce it do not insure its appearance, however. It must have something to print, and no city daily is fulfilling its function if it prints nothing but local news. Hence one of the most immediate problems to be faced was supplying the fledgling sheets with news of other parts of Germany and of the world at large. This had to be done in a country where communications were thoroughly torn up and were being reinstated only for military purposes, and often in inadequate quantity for such purposes. The answer was a news agency, and steps were taken forthwith to fill this gap. On 29 June 1945 a 13-man team was set up in an attic in the Hotel Tielemann in Bad Nauheim, where it began producing a file in English of domestic German news. Of the 13 men, four were sent to Frankfurt, Hoechst, Munich and Wiesbaden as correspondents. News at first came from monitoring and from official sources in addition to these reporters, and within weeks the agency was processing some 3,000 words a day. Its first publication was the bulletin "News of Germany", which is today a valuable factual summary of the current German scene.
With the licensing of the “Frankfurter Rundschau”, 31 July 1945, German News Service acquired its first German customer. Original plans had provided that the District Information Control Units should furnish such licensed newspapers with regional, zonal or national news coverage. The Press Control News Unit assumed this responsibility on a zonal basis, although it had no immediate means by which to disseminate the news. Licensing terms provided that the newspapers were to set aside five per cent of their income to pay for the service. Later this was put on a circulation basis along with the obligation to make available to the news agency locally-gathered news which would in due course be disseminated to other newspapers. Because of the absence of wire communication and direct courier service with the “Frankfurter Rundschau”, service to the newspaper in the first weeks was unreliable.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE AGENCY

By August 15, sufficient German writing personnel was assigned to the News Unit to permit establishment of a German Desk parallel to the English Desk. Function of the German Desk initially was to rewrite the product of the English file into German and to process for distribution such news as arrived from the field in German. Establishment of this desk coincided with the move of GNS to larger quarters on the ground floor of the Hotel Tielemann.

Meanwhile, the field facilities had been growing. The four original reporters had organized news bureaus; correspondents were dispatched to Berlin and other points, and exchange arrangements were made with the other zones of Germany. Communications were also gradually improved, though this still remains a difficult problem.

Up to this time, processed world news had been reaching Germany from Allied

Press Service in London, and upon its splitting up into its American and British, components, from United States Press Service (USPS) at Luxembourg. The time had come to create a consolidated agency capable of servicing the newspapers within the U.S. Zone. A teletype link was accordingly established between Bad Nauheim and Luxembourg and on 6 September the German news service emerged as a full-fledged agency. On that date:

(a) The name DANA — Deutsche Allgemeine Nachrichten Agentur — was adopted as the German title for the German News Service. The name was purposely chosen to avoid any letter combination recalling DNB.

(b) DANA began receiving a file of world news in German from USPS in Luxembourg. In turn the DANA English file was sent to Luxembourg for transmission to the OWI’s Overseas News and Features Bureau (ONAF) in New York for retransmission to outposts throughout the world.

(c) DANA’s Hellschreiber transmitter, a battered, shotup German transmitter that only a few months before had been jamming Radio Luxembourg, went on the air, beaming the consolidated world and domestic news file to the offices of the licensed as well as US-published German press.

And on this same date DANA hired its first three German journalists, all experienced in news work from the days before the nazis, and released at DANA’s request from a prisoner-of-war cage. These men today are the top of DANA’s skilled German personnel, two of them having as their current assignment the covering of the Nuremberg trial.

Consolidation of the files begun on 6 September was completed with consolidation of the Luxembourg and Nauheim offices on 11 November. From Luxembourg, in addition to highly trained personnel, DANA received experienced Morse operators, valuable monitoring equipment
and other badly needed items such as office furniture and typewriters.

COMMUNICATIONS

It was not until late November and early December that DANA’s communications with its bureaus, planned in the early days of the organization, began to materialize. Teletype circuits were established between Nauheim and the bureaus at Frankfurt, Munich, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Berlin and Nuremberg. Munich in turn is linked by teletype with Information Services Branch at Salzburg, and Bad Nauheim has a line to Hamburg linking DANA with the British zonal press service, Deutsche Presse Dienst (DPD). Stuttgart is linked with Tübingen in the French zone. A separate link exists between DANA and the United States Information Service in Paris. Russian zone news is received in Berlin from the Soviet Nachrichten Bureau (SNB). As a result of the torn communications within Germany those teletypes are still unreliable but news is received with greater regularity and in greater volume than hitherto.

As a result of these steps, DANA’s news service has increased greatly over that provided in the early days. One of the agency’s outstanding jobs to date has been the coverage of the Nuremberg trial. In spite of difficulty of determining the status of correspondents and securing admission to the trial for them, DANA had by Christmas provided 75,000 words of straight coverage plus 40,000 words of background, text and feature material relating to it. Total DANA output is now about 15,000 words a day.

EMPHASIS ON FACTS

DANA’s handling of news has differed from the continental practice of leisurely, interpretative news writing. Taking the view that this type of writing has always led to the perversion of news, DANA’s American editors have insisted upon employment of American news techniques, notably the traditional lead which tells the what, how, when, where and why of a story, and the building up of detail, so that a story may be trimmed from the bottom without discarding the essential information it contains. This policy has been based on the experience gained in the first licensing at Aachen, where German editors and readers, after a first balking at getting their news “straight,” were weened from their old habits and have now come to prefer the Anglo-American news techniques as conducive to greater objectivity. Pursuance of this policy is strengthened by the fact that reliable reports stress the desire of the German newspaper readers for news rather than opinion.

GERMAN EDITORS LESS SUSPICIOUS

Since the English desk in the central DANA office exercises most of the editorial control, and because they themselves were accustomed to handling the unalterable pronunciamentos of Dr. Goebbels, German editors have displayed some hesitancy in accepting DANA as an objective news file. All official agencies in Europe reflect exclusively the bias of their controllers; facts are suppressed or twisted to fit this bias. This tendency on the part of the German editors has resulted in imperfect use of DANA. Editors are in the habit of printing DANA files verbatim, without checking facts or correcting the errors which inevitably occur. They still give disproportionate space to essays and “appreciations,” despite the public’s demand for more news. By rigid coverage of spot items, however, and by providing feature material designed to fill in the twelve-year gap in the historical knowledge of most Germans caused by the nazi muzzle, DANA is building a reputation for fair and objective reporting which will eventually become as well-established as that of the reputable American agencies.

(Continued on page 20)
NOTES ON GERMANY

In rapid succession, Orson Welles on an American Broadcasting Company program notes: 1) growing pro-German, anti-Russian, anti-British propaganda in this country can be traced to the agents of the old nazi firm of I.G. Farben; 2) Several U.S. Senators now advocate that we should stop policing Germany; 3) Senator Wherry wants to start mail service to Germany so that German friends in this country can send them packages.

MALIGNANT GROWTH

It’s argued by the French, comments Gabriel Heatter of the Mutual Broadcasting System, that the “Ruhr gave Germany everything she had to have for each war. The French say . . . why not cut that malignant growth out of Germany, internationalize it and use its power for peacetime production for everybody.”

(Continued from page 12)

DANA TO BE ENTIRELY GERMAN

Much of DANA’s staff is already German, and additional Germans are being hired as fast as competent and reliable newsmen can be found. It is now definitely planned to turn DANA over entirely to the Germans, and the target date for this change is 31 March. Many problems have to be overcome — among them, the securing of financial backing, making arrangements for DANA as an independent agency to secure the files of foreign news agencies, procurement of equipment within the limitations of the “Trading with the enemy act,” as well as training of personnel to operate a news service. This is particularly difficult, since Germany has never had a modern independent agency and hence few Germans know how to operate one. These problems will be met, however, and with the completion of arrangements for communication and for continuing American supervision DANA will eventually take its place among the major news services of the world.

(Continued from page 17)

If the ‘little man’ is to be punished because he was a party member by losing his job and various other measures, certainly those must also atone for their sins who had been set up as illustrious examples. For example: Although it has been said that Furtwaengler will not be allowed to conduct any longer, influential powers are at work to rehabilitate him because of his great ability. But is it to be taken into consideration that this interpreter of art, in the service of national socialism just like thousands of other undecided ones, made believe that he was committing no wrong by following those who put him on a pedestal as a bearer of culture?

“We consider the ‘small people’ guilty because they belonged to the party and they very often only lived in the superficial atmosphere of the national socialist films. There are thousands like that. They ran after a Paula Wessely or a Leni Riefenstahl. And now we are experiencing that these same people are forgiven because of their unchallenged abilities, while we ourselves remain despised. The same is true of the prominent people in the world of sports who were also an example for the masses.”