

PRESS:

And you say that the reporters will be allowed there and when you are head of the Council will be allowed generally in Berlin?

GENERAL EISENHOWER:

I can really speak only for myself, and it is a question that hadn't occurred to me, so I couldn't give you a concrete definite answer. I can say only that in the area I control accredited correspondents always are free to go as they please.

PRESS:

Will Germany be more and more administered as a unit or will it continue to be administered in three air-tight compartments as time goes on?

GENERAL EISENHOWER:

Well, I am sure that certainly you are going to have to administer the transportation, communications, and many other things, health regulations and so on, things which must be administered as units if it is going to be done successfully.

PRESS:

Can you tell us about this wide publication of atrocity stories? Do you think the publication of them is going to be very useful?

GENERAL EISENHOWER:

I think I was largely responsible for it, so I must have thought it was useful. When I found the first camp like that I think I never was so angry in my life. The bestiality displayed there was not merely piled up bodies of people that had starved to death, but to follow out the road and see where they tried to evacuate them so they could still work, you could see where they sprawled on the road. You could go to their burial pits and see horrors that really I wouldn't even want to begin to describe. I think people ought to know about such things. It explains something of my attitude toward the German war criminal. I believe he must be punished, and I will hold out for that forever. I think it did good. I think the people at home ought to know what they are fighting for and the kind of person they are fighting. Yes, it did good.

PRESS:

How widespread was it? Was it general?

GENERAL EISENHOWER:

It's a thing that we have been trying very desperately to find out, whether or not the German population as a whole knew about that. I can't say. It does appear, from all the evidence we can find, that they were isolated areas, and this one piece of evidence of the mayor being shown the thing and going home and hanging himself would indicate he didn't know about it. On the other hand, what makes the story so thin with me is when we find these very high ranking Nazis denying knowledge of it. If they didn't, they deliberately closed their eyes, that is all. As far as I am concerned, those people are just as guilty as anybody else--those high ranking Nazis--but I think it would be impossible to say, however, the German nation knew it as a whole. But a lot of them know it, because I made them go out and give them a decent burial. We made a film an hour long and we have made many Germans look at it, and it is not pretty.

PRESS:

Where was the toughest fighting between VE-Day and D-Day, or rather I should say between D-Day and VE-Day? Was the toughest fighting in the Ardennes or was there a serious battle....