

News Letter

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NAZI PROPAGANDA-ESPIONAGE WEB IN OLD MEXICO

NOTE: NRS presents some interesting and startling data from its MEXICO RESEARCH FILE. Some of these facts were first presented by "The Hemisphere", well edited and highly reliable "News-Weekly of the Americas", published in New York City. In checking for accuracy, NRS correspondents in Mexico unearthed additional information. We present herewith what we consider a reliable account of the Nazi Fifth Column in Mexico. ---THE EDITORS.

Watch for fireworks in Mexico! The German Minister, Baron Rüd't von Col-lenberg-Bödingheim and his official -- and unofficial -- staff are to be main features in the pyrotechnic display. Like skyrockets, they will leave Mexican erritory in a comet-like bee-line for the fatherland.

The Mexican Ministry of the Interior is now checking up on scores of Nazi and Fascist espionage and propaganda agents. For a long time, such investigation was demanded by patriotic Mexicans, alarmed over the progress of the Nazi and Falange Fifth Column. Matters are rapidly reaching a climax, due to the threatening note delivered to the Mexican Foreign Office by the German Minister, requesting that the government protest to the United States against Wash-ington's blacklist of pro-Axis firms.



Misa en polaco. Un oficial polaco oficia los servicios sagrados

Typical Nazi propaganda picture, widely distributed in Mexico and other Latin-American countries. The caption stresses that Polish prisoners of war enjoy religious freedom in Germany. Devout Catholics below the border are easily duped by propaganda of this sort.

The note was re-jected as "imperious and unacceptable" by Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla, who said:

My government does not admit for one moment the insinuation that President Roosevelt's economic program violates Mexico's liberty of commerce and even her sovereignty.

The German Minister said in his note that Mexico's "resigned acceptance" of Wash-ington's measures would certainly "influence the decision of the

German government upon renewing commercial relations with Mexico after the war".

Small wonder the German Minister seeks to protect the approximately 190 business houses now on the blacklist, for in the past they supplied the silver bullets for Nazi propaganda campaigns (illustrated and described on pages 4 and 5). An NRS correspondent in Mexico reports:

The moment Hitler came to power in Germany, a branch of the Nazi Party was founded in Mexico. Chief of the Party was Arthur Dietrich, accredited to the German Embassy as Press Attaché until he was expelled. He set up numerous German organizations, camouflaged -- to cite an example -- as the "Society for the Promulgation of German Music in Mexico". Many Germans who were either conservative or monarchist while they resided in the Reich, were opposed to the Nazi Terror. They tried to withstand the pressure of the Nazi Party and the camouflaged organizations. However, as soon as strong economic forces were brought into play against them, they became members of the Nazified German colony.

Most of the Germans were part and parcel of Mexico's economic system, either as exporters of raw material from Mexico to Germany, or importers of manufactured products from their home country. The German settler's dependence upon his fatherland was skillfully exploited by Nazi strategists. Germans were forced into line. If they failed to comply, they became subject to the wrath of Nazi authorities, and to economic ruin through boycott.

As soon as the entire German colony was Nazified, the German Embassy set wheels in motion for the next step. First of all, they felt, Mexican newspapers and publications should be won over to the cause. This could be achieved only with large sums of money. Funds had to come, of course, from German business houses, headed by such well-known firms as Casa Bayer, Union Quimica (I. G. Farben), Schering Kahlbaum, Casa Boker, Casa Stein, Beick Felix, Casa Merck Veerkamp. To this list must be added the owners of large coffee plantations, exporters of wood, and proprietors of numerous breweries. All of these German industrialists and merchants were persuaded by Dietrich himself to advertise regularly in newspapers favorable to the Hitler regime, or in papers which had to be won over to the Nazi point of view. Typical example of the pressure employed is a letter to the German Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, in which Dietrich wrote, among other things:

As you know, for some time I have been making efforts to obtain, in return for the advertisements which the German firms give to the newspapers of this country, their cooperation in diffusing German informative material.

Now I have the opportunity -- with the cooperation of Mr. Roberto Olvarria, who was recommended to me by a German firm -- to make an agreement with the paper "La Prensa", which gives us, at least in this paper, great advantages. La Prensa has put at my disposal, free of charge, space for the publication of articles and reports, amounting to at least half the space which the German firms take for their advertisements. Price of advertisements will not be raised as a result of this agreement, but on the contrary, the paper is well disposed to give additional free facilities for the editing and illustration of the ads.

In personal conversations which I have had with the editor of the paper, Mr. Glass, as well as with the head of the Advertising Department, Mr. Navarro, I have been given assurances of the friendliest disposition of those men toward the above mentioned plan.

....For that reason I ask your cooperation in this plan by sending this week a circular to the associated firms of the German Chamber of Commerce, in which they are advised of the way in which they can help in this campaign of propaganda....

With German Salute: Heil Hitler!
(signed) Arthur Dietrich
Chief of Press Service of the German Embassy

La Prensa was not the only paper with which deals of this sort were made. Now that the pro-Axis firms have been blacklisted, the German Fifth Column must look to other sources for its finances. This fact, above all others, prompted the German Minister to demand that the Mexican government protest to Washington over the "discrimination against commercial establishments protected by Mexican Sovereignty".

The Fifth Column activities of Baron von Collenberg and his Press Attaché Dietrich were exposed by NRS as far back as September 21 and December 14, 1939. Dietrich has since been expelled, but von Collenberg and his staff continue nonetheless. We present the facts:

A Tangled Web They Weave

Dr. Joachim H. Hertslet, Monte Blanco 55, Mexico City, is top man in the far-flung Nazi web. Some time ago, he received very unfavorable publicity in the American press through his association with the recently deceased oil promoter, William Rhodes Davis. It was reported then that his main assignment was to prepare the way for a Nazi economic invasion of Mexico. However, it was not mentioned that Hertslet was also organizing sabotage, and was devoting a great deal of his time to arranging transfer of German capital from the United States and Canada into Mexico, where it was deposited with the *Banco de Londres y Mexico*. One Captain Claus of the German Steamship Haveland, anchored in Tampico, worked under him. From his ship to Mexico City, Claus brought three German sailors who were then sent to Vera Cruz to spy on the French steamship *Duc d'Aumale*. This liner sailed for Martinique with Frenchmen who had enlisted early last year, and returned to Mexico after the fall of France.

Hertslet -- officially attached to the German Legation with diplomatic privileges -- is a high ranking economist of the Nazi Reich. He arrived in Mexico in 1938 to put the finishing touches to a barter proposal arranged by Davis. He was accompanied by an official of the German Ministry of Economics, one *Herr* Briske, who returned to Berlin in 1939, leaving Hertslet behind.

Colonel Friedrich Karl Schlebrügge, Donata Guerra 142, Mexico City, is a nephew of Franz von Papen and reported to be Hitler's personal representative below the American border. He ranks almost as high as Hertslet, and is in charge of all Nazi military, naval and air espionage in Mexico and in most of the Central American countries. Schlebrügge saw service during the invasion of Poland. Previous to the first trial of the *Blitzkrieg*, he was a commander of the Berlin Garrison. Last year, during a raid on his Mexican home, a secret radio transmitter was found.

Arturo Bayer, alias Arthur Richard Beier, chief of the Gestapo in Mexico, is closely associated with Schlebrügge. Until 1919, Bayer lived in Detroit, and now is manager of an airline from Mexico City to Cd. Juarez. He makes frequent visits to the state of Chiapas where he controls two ranches owned by a German named Kahl who returned to Germany.

(Continued on Page 6)



A layout of war pictures found in an "Illustrated Supplement of the German Notebook of War", printed in Spanish, and widely distributed in Mexico. This group of shots shows the men responsible for the operation of a big anti-aircraft gun. These pictures were selected to overawe gullible Latins with German might.

La batalla

internacional

EL SARGENTO DE CRISTO

Y

Entre las procedencias más raras de que se vale la propaganda nazi para convencer a los latinos contra Alemania y sus regímenes se encuentran el muy acertado de presentar la actual guerra, como las pugnas católicas. COMO UNA CRUZADA POR LA FE. Se llama en ella a Francisco "El Sargento de Cristo", y se recuerda que el rey de Francia acostumbraba darlo a su mismo el título de Majestad Cristiana (pero no se recuerda, por supuesto, que uno de esos reyes cristianísimos, Francisco I, se alió con el Turco contra el Papa y contra la cristiandad). Se condena al nacional-socialismo como el enemigo más encarnizado de la Iglesia.

una campaña de entusiasmo de la opinión católica, no obstante ser la principal enemiga de Alemania en la presente guerra, sin duda porque los directores de esa campaña conservan todavía justamente el subterfugio respecto al sentido común de los pueblos católicos para comprender LA GROTESCA FIGURA QUE MARCA INGLATERRA en su laberinto como defensora de la Iglesia y de

WALDECE BOBMEAD DESPOSO A LA E CRISTO religión y la posibilidad de su territorio con bajo de rastro, como la hija obediencia de la Iglesia y como su paladin en las contiendas internacionales, se le a momento que no podría pasar al como espectáculo de la más gruesa manifestación. Pero con un recurso a la historia, en los días de oscuras generaciones, que hemos visto AL GOBIERNO

de la que en la presente guerra mundial permitida que en su propio territorio se reconstruya a través de todos los reinos y religiones, judíos, hindúes, mahometanos, aparte de anglosajones, norteamericanos y cuantos paganos salvajes vive el mundo, para lanzarlos contra una nación cristiana? (La este el papel del "Sargento de Cristo")
Por otro parte, en Alemania hay no solo libertad de culto, no solo un la Iglesia de todos los gentes de que la carta de servido por más de un siglo en los países protestantes como la misa en Francia, sino que el Gobierno construye las templos y las parroquias y paga los sacerdotes del clero.

Reproduction of a large circular issued in Mexico, instigated by German interests, under the name of the "University Students with National and International Interests". The title reads: "The Sergeant of Christ". Translation of the text reveals startling untruths. Using the premise that British propaganda is defaming National Socialism as the incarnate enemy of the Church, the article states "religious processions in Germany are allowed with complete freedom, in their ecclesiastical matters, and insignia." It further states, of "the Catholic press is given full freedom to express its opinion on religion." Mexicans, devout Catholics as a rule, led to believe that the Reich is Christianity!

This reads New Order rope and I in Latin-America many's theories, humanity with stand in America lend a hand bring about

NOTICARIO de GUERRA

Eo. 562

5 de junio de 1941

INFORME POLITICO ALEMAN

EL ADELANTO EN LA PRODUCCION ALEMANA DE AVIONES.

"También por parte de los enemigos de Alemania se ha confesado que la producción alemana de aviones sobrepasa, en mucho, la de la Gran Bretaña" Así escribe la "Comandancia Militar de Alemania".

En gran parte, en el terreno de la producción en gran escala. El problema de la producción en gran escala fue científicamente estudiado en aquel entonces, habiéndose conseguido ya brillantes resultados en una época en que en Inglaterra aun se discutía respecto al plan para crear esta industria. Las

LOS GRANDES PROBLEMAS

Vol. V

LA DERROTA DE INGLATERRA

EXPLICACIONES SOBRE UNA REVOLUCION

COLECCION ACCION MUNDIAL MEXICO

This is the front page of (translated) "Notebook of War". The underlined caption reads: "German Political Information". The leading article is headed "Advancement in German Plane Production". This, too, finds its way into the hands of Mexicans. The notebook, replete with pictures, builds up, in no uncertain terms, supposed German might.

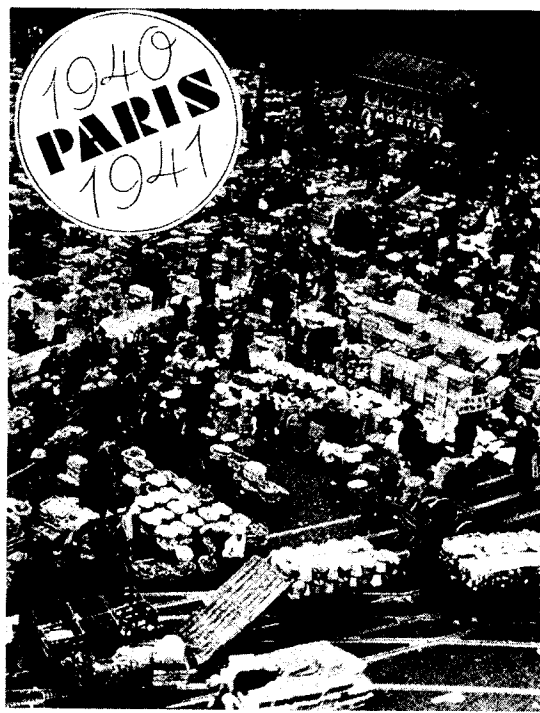
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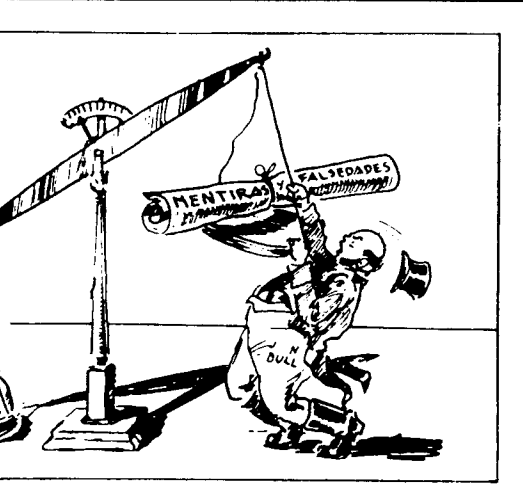
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And here are photographs "proving" that there is peace and quiet in Paris, printed in "Pictures of Facts", a propaganda magazine published on April 9, 1941 by the "Official Service of Information of the German Embassy", in Guatemala, and widely distributed not only in Mexico, but throughout the Americas. Plenty of food in the market places (for Frenchmen!) and sightseeing tours taken by German soldiers depict for Latins the Paris of to-day, as the Nazis show it. In fact, one sentence in the magazine reads: "All French Government employees continue to carry on their duties. Only the uniforms of German soldiers bring to mind that Paris is occupied."

right, and below are three samples of vicious anti-British propaganda circulated wholesale in Mexican territory. The cartoon at the left reads: "The Downfall of England - Reflections as a Motion Picture". In it, the author, on page 9, states: "No one could resist the Germans converted into the most formidable army ever seen. Look at the virile beauty of these strong youths, covered with steel helmets, marching under the guidance of a superior spirit..". The cartoon at left shows John Bull pulling down a scale labeled "Lies and Falsehoods". The other scale reads "German Truths". The cartoon's caption says "He'll never be able to balance this!" This cartoon made the back cover of a widely distributed booklet, "This Is England", also printed in Spanish. The third propaganda blast, at the right, is titled "Defamation As An Instrument of War". It asks, on page 10: "Do you know what the principal occupation of Germans in Paris is?" And answers, "Visiting and sightseeing!"



La Difamación

COMO INSTRUMENTO DE GUERRA

Price 10c

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Paulus Peliska works under Bayer. For camouflage purposes, he works for the *Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft*, one of the most powerful German trusts. Actually, Peliska is an important Gestapo agent who made secret trips to Japan and Peru in 1939.

Walter Westfal, another Gestapo official holding the same rank as Peliska, and residing at Uruguay 45, accompanied Peliska on his trips. He is the secret representative of General Friedrich von Boetticher, Military Attaché at the Nazi Embassy at Washington. Westfal and Boetticher were frequently seen together in Mexico.

Arthur Rundt, who saw service in the German Marine, works directly under Schlebrügge as an espionage agent. His chief duties comprise transmission of secret radio messages, and kidnapping and blackmail to secure desired information. Martha Frost, alias Beatrice Ferguson, travels with Rundt as his assistant. She resides at Vienna 17, Mexico City -- the same apartment formerly rented by the German Legation for propaganda purposes.

Rudolph Schauer Plaska poses as an engineer of the German Steel Trust, *Deutscher Stahl Verein*. He works for both Schlebrügge and Hertslet. Hans Herzer, a chemist and German reserve officer, was allowed to return to Mexico from Germany when war broke out. In view of his profession, this would be surprising were it not for the fact that in reality he has charge of social contacts for spy work and relaying of information to Germany.

Karl Rikowsky, alias von Earre, who usually stops at the Hotel Geneve in Mexico City, organized a big barter deal in Mexican cotton and paper in 1938 and 1939. He has been under police surveillance since his return from Germany in April, 1939.

Ewald Bork, Sierra Madre 265, Mexico City, sub-manager of the German Bank, is titular chief of the Nazi Party in Mexico. NRS #94 reproduced a message from the Nazi Party in Mexico to Adolf Hitler, signed by Bork.

Hans Ritter and his wife run a boarding house at Colimi 319, Mexico City, where German agents are put up. Officially, Ritter is an employee of *Hermann Sommer y Cia*, a Mexico City hardware firm, but he devotes most of his time to traveling, not only in Mexico, but throughout most of the Central American states, as paymaster to local Nazi agents.

Hugo Setzer is party chief for the Pacific Coast in Mazatlan, a stronghold of German business. He manages the *Banco Mercantil y Capitalizador*. Associated with him are Horst Hennings, Franz Ketelhut, living in Puebla, Max Hofinger, employed at the Ford factory near Mexico City, and one Reisman, living at Avenida San Angel 18, San Angel, D. F.

Guido Otto Moebius is Nazi keyman in Monterrey, a city near the Texas border. He is president of *Las Fabricas Apolo*, a big drug firm. Moebius is said to own a shortwave transmitter, XE21K. Associated with him is one Kitcha, who organized a gang of 150 ruffians and trained them in the use of military weapons to become the Nazi shock troops in that city.

The Goat-Gland Man is Here Again

Last June 14th, the Associated Press reported from Mexico City:

The government information office announced today that the big Villa Acuna radio station XERA, established by Dr. John R. Binkley, former Milford, Kansas, gland specialist, has been expropriated by Mexico.

The goat-gland specialist and his pro-Nazi smear sheet, "Publicity", published in Wichita, Kansas, were exposed in NRS #102, #111, #135. A few days after the seizure of the radio station, the Mexican government raided Nazi and Falange headquarters in Tampico, arresting Luis Martinez and Jesus Morales, managers of the Hotel Inglaterra, and José Ayala, publisher of "El Mundo", one of the most important pro-German dailies of the country. These three, and several others arrested at the same time, were closely connected with radio station XERA, an outlet of unusual power. "The Hemisphere" reports that many Germans, recently arrived in Mexico, are now living in Tampico, and there are constant rumors concerning their activities.

Further, "The Hemisphere" reports that after the Tampico affair, other arrests took place in Acapulco, on the Pacific Coast and in Chiapas State, where many wealthy Germans and Spaniards live. These raids are believed related to an unpublished report now circulating in government circles, regarding recent unofficial visits by certain South American military men to high retired Mexican officers. The South Americans proposed a serious subversive plot in Mexico, which was to culminate in armed revolt immediately upon Hitler's anticipated success in Europe. Other such plots were said to be under way by this group in other countries. The visitors were reportedly ferreted out by police and quietly sent home.

Nazi Coffee Grounds

A current check-up in Chiapas is expected to produce important results. The dominant element in this southernmost of Mexico's states is primarily German, with a considerable admixture of Spaniards. It is rich coffee country, most of the land being held in huge lots, and the largest holders are Germans and Spaniards.

A particular danger involved in Chiapas lies in the fact that it borders directly on the equally prosperous coffee district of Guatemala, another fertile Nazi hunting ground. Here also, especially in Alta Verapaz Province, the best plantations are in German hands. Germans virtually control the economic life of the region, and Nazis hold vital posts in the local administration.

Nazis and Falangists are strengthening the cooperation across the frontier while planning disturbances designed to divert inter-American attention from the war. However, the Mexican government is watching these agents, whose expulsion is just a matter of time. Their departure will be accompanied by sensational fireworks, again bringing home to the isolationist ostriches that an invasion of the Western Hemisphere was begun long ago, and that it is not a question of how many ships are needed for an invasion. The advance guard is here, busily recruiting men and women who believe in Adolf Hitler's New Order.

"Since our accession to power, I have allowed four years' time for German art critics to adjust themselves to National Socialist principles....As 1936 has not brought a satisfactory improvement in art criticism, I finally forbid from today the continuation of art criticism in the old form. The former art criticism will be replaced as from today by the ART REPORT; the critic will be replaced by the ART REPORTER. The ART REPORT is to be not so much an evaluation as a description....In future only such reporters will be permitted to write about achievements in art as undertake this task with purity of heart and the philosophy of National Socialism." (From a Decree by the Reich Minister for Propaganda, Dr. Goebbels; *Völkischer Beobachter*, 11/28/36.)

Art Criticism
"Verboten"

"Today it is not decisive whether a play is regarded as good or bad by the critic, but what is decisive is the cause striven for on the stage." (Wilhelm Weiss, President of the German Press Association, in a speech at a meeting of Critics; *Frankfurter Zeitung*, 12/17/35.)

Suggested Reading "AMERICA", by David Cushman Coyle. Price 25¢. Introduced on the 4th of July by Sergeant York over a national radio hook-up, this little book has taken the country by storm. No publication, in recent times, has aroused the enthusiasm of leadership and public alike as has this little masterpiece of 91 pages. Endorsed by almost everyone from the President on down, it has become the morale book of the defense program and is slated to sell a couple of million copies.

"America" is written by a typical American, in typical American language. There is no attempt at perfect, literal English. Throughout every page one hears the tongue of the American man on the street. A few chapter titles are indicative: "What Are We Up Against?", "What Are We After?", "What Good Is Democracy?" There is straight-from-the-shoulder talk on the topic in which every American is vitally interested today.

Radio Log I'M AN AMERICAN - Sunday, 12 noon to 12:30 P.M. E.D.T., NBC. Blue Network. Programs devoted to an exposition of the privileges, responsibilities and possibilities of the democratic way of life. Auspices: Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U. S. Department of Justice... SPEAKING OF LIBERTY - Thursday, 6:30 to 6:45 P.M. E.D.T., NBC. Red Network. Auspices: Council for Democracy. Rex Stout, author and journalist, each week interviews authors on subjects of interest to the American scene.

YOU DECIDE - Sunday, 1:30 to 2:00 P.M. CBS. Auspices: Youth Builders, Inc. Dramatization for the 'teen age of the blessings of freedom and the democratic way of life.

THE SPIRIT OF '41 - Sunday, 4:30 to 5:00 P.M. E.D.T., CBS. Designed to bring radio listeners first-hand information about all fighting units and the U. S. forces. Each week one unit of army, navy or marines, is singled out and its history and development to the present time traced.

REPORT TO THE NATION - Tuesday, 9:30 to 10:00 P.M. E.D.T., CBS. Description of the inside workings of the U. S. government. Narrators: Albert Warner and John Charles Daley.
