

HEADQUARTERS  
SIXTH INFANTRY TRAINING REGIMENT  
Camp Croft, South Carolina

November 4, 1941.

SUBJECT: "The Biggest Job We'll Ever Have"

TO : All Officers, 6th Infantry Training Regiment

1. It is desired that each Battalion Commander, or a qualified subordinate, at a Battalion assembly, deliver the following talk to the men of his command. This talk to be delivered preferably at the end of the first week of training when the Selectees are commencing to realize the difficulties of gaining proficiency in military drills and subjects, and perhaps to wonder why they are in the Army. It is to forestall those vague ideas, entertained by Selectees as to why they are in the Service, that this talk is principally directed. The talk follows:

The soldier of some service who remembers the weakness of our scattered, skeletonized, ill-equipped Army of recent years has never doubted the need of our nation for a big army and the best there is. Or if there ever was a question about this in his mind, it vanished when he began to see the air fleets, the mechanized forces, and the fighting divisions upon divisions, that other nations were hammering out upon their forges for making the tools of war.

But the young new soldier - officer and enlisted man alike - who is now manning a machine gun, carrying a rifle, driving a truck or a tank or a plane, or commanding a small unit, or otherwise serving his nation in arms - this new soldier has sometimes had no previous experience that would enable him to see what those with more years of service know is an utterly desperate need. Besides, he has come into an Army so busy in trying to expand, so jammed with the thousand jobs of more growing, and of getting arms and equipment, that explanations - rock-bottom reasons - only too clear to many of us, haven't been repeated and emphasized enough to make them perfectly clear to all.

There are apparently some of us in uniform today who are still asking "Why?" "Why am I in uniform?" "Why do we need a big Army?" "Is it a political move to make millionaires from defense orders?" And when any citizen of the United States asks that question, whether he is under arms or not, he is entitled to an answer and an answer that makes sense. If he hasn't heard or understood the answers already given, he's entitled to further ones - plain and emphatic answer and repeated answer - until he does see what he and the rest of his democratic world are up against.

The fact that these things are so absolutely plain to the man of some military experience should call for no impatience, no reflections upon differences, imaginary or real, in the attitude of modern youth, no spluttering of indignation. It calls for one thing only - sound and repeated commonsense explanation.

As this speaker sees it there are two reasons, two of the best possible reasons, for working with every brain cell, nerve, and muscle, working unceasingly despite delay and difficulty and inevitable error, to make our Army big and good - to make it, if not the biggest in numbers, then the best there is in the world in fighting power and strength. There are two reasons. One has to do directly with Hitler. The other has to do with the whole world - which doesn't mean Hitler yet, and never will if we keep on plugging at the jobs we've got until the big job of making an unbeatable army is done.

It took four years to win World War I, which was bigger in some ways than this war has ever been yet. It took four years to win our Civil War, a big war for its day. It took fifteen years to stop Napoleon, and that was no little side-show of a war either.

It also took an old-time conqueror, Genghis Khan, years of planning and years of fighting, mainly with horses and spears and bows and arrows, to do what he did. But in the end he was sitting on a piece of the earth more than twice as wide as the United States of America and two or three times as big, spreading from China to Russia and the Balkans in Europe. It likewise took Napoleon and the other conquerors of history years to get where they got, and it took their opponents years of planning and campaigning to stop the conquerors that were eventually stopped. All the big wars the world has seen took tremendous planning and tremendous fighting and campaigning over years of time.

And now there is a man and an army - 260 divisions - and a country that have been making the same kind of plans for years, but on a bigger scale than any such plans have been made before. There's a man, Hitler, and an army, the army of the Nazis, trying to carry out these plans, trying to conquer the world. But not all at once. Part last year, part this year, part next year, and part the year after - for as long as it takes.

With plans covering years and years, and a big head start over the rest of the world in armed fighting power, there is nothing impossible about someday crossing two thousand miles of ocean to start things going for the conquest of another continent. There is nothing impossible about doing this step by step, country by country, year by year, if the rest of the world - all of it, with all of us included - doesn't use its brains and its energy to catch up in fighting power and stop this conquest dead.

A lot of people have talked and written about these Nazi plans for conquering the world. But let's see what one expert observer thinks, a man who was in Germany itself until a few months ago, watching and looking and listening to Nazi talk. Many have come back to America and written in magazines and newspapers and books about what they saw and heard. Many have told this same story, but of all the correspondents and radio men who have so far stated the aims of the Nazis, Mr. Joseph C. Harsch, in a new book, Pattern of Conquest, has given the clearest statement. He is a staff correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor, a daily newspaper of Boston that has been famous for years for the excellence and accuracy of its foreign news. After serving for several years in Berlin, he puts the aims of Germany about as plainly as anyone possibly could. Here is what he says:

I have been shown maps of the projected German world of the future. I have seen memoranda from party sources which outlined details of the plan of conquest and the plan of fulfillment. I accepted them in Berlin as something everyone knew about. I find on returning to the United States that people are still incredibly reluctant to believe that such things can

be true.

Here is what they actually plan to do with Europe and the world and how they still expect to get it.

Europe itself is to be organized with a much enlarged Germany as a central core, surrounded by German colonies and, farther afield, by vassal states. The new borders of Germany itself will include both all areas inhabited now by even a small German-speaking minority and also such additional areas as they desire to populate with Germans for reasons of space, military importance and economic value. Maps frequently published in wartime Germany of the extent of the medieval Germanic empire show roughly what they intend to incorporate bodily into Germany and from which they intend to drive out all existing residents except such as they intend to keep in the status of migratory slave labor. All property in this area will be owned by Germans, and all enterprise will be in German hands. The process is already well toward completion in parts of Poland and in Lorraine. It includes the German-speaking parts of Switzerland and all of Czechoslovakia. At one time they intended treating the Dutch as "probationary" Germans and taking in the non-French-speaking parts of Belgium. Dutch resistance is likely to change the treatment of Holland to that of a vassal state, but under direct and complete German control.

Beyond the central German core will be areas in which German colonies will have exclusive political power and the native population will be tolerated on an inferior status. Such colonies will push down the Danube basin to the Black Sea. Such colonies will extend along the Baltic to the very edge of Petrograd.

There will then be vassal states of various degrees. Denmark, Norway and Sweden will be organized into a single vassal, slightly favored on the ground that its population is Nordic, and, therefore, kin to the German. Finland is to be enlarged and set under German supervision as a northern barrier against Russia. Italy will also be a moderately favored vassal state out of respect for the past and for its usefulness in the Mediterranean.

In the west French-speaking Belgium and Switzerland are to be thrown, for administrative simplicity, into France. At one time the Germans thought of holding a strip across northern France to the Channel, but the attempt to rouse a German separatist movement in Normandy made so little headway that it has been apparently abandoned. How France would be treated depends very much on the outcome of Germany's ceaseless efforts to entice Vichy into a policy of what Berlin calls "collaboration." The attraction of the offers made to Vichy lies in the promise that if "collaboration" is accepted France would be tolerated after the war as a semi-independent state. It would, of course, be denied military power, and its foreign policy would be dictated from Berlin. Its economy would also be molded to suit German economic interests, and its international financial relations would be cleared through Berlin. But it would still be allowed to call itself an independent state and granted the luxury of local self-government. If France capitulates to such terms while the war is still in process, it would be of enormous aid to the German war effort. It is the last thing needed to produce the appearance of an entire continent of Europe submissive to the German plan. It's worth making some concessions.

But if Vichy manages to resist such an offer the pages of the German press hold the clue to the alternative. When Berlin has felt impatient with France the press has indulged in vilification and abuse unexceeded even by what has been said with more regularity about Poland. France has been called many times the implacable enemy of Germany which must be exter-

minated before there will be peace and freedom for the German race to achieve its destiny. Resistance would mean, in the event of German victory, the virtual extinction of France. At best it is intended to make France an economic vassal. At worst the Germans would simply take over the country split it into small units and rule each by Germans, depressing the French natives to the status of uneducated peasants.

I have seen privately circulated maps showing a projected treatment of Russia. White Russia and the Ukraine are to be set up into German-controlled puppet states. The new border would run just west of the railroad line from Petrograd to Moscow and below Moscow would strike southeast to the Caspian Sea, bringing virtually all the economically profitable part of European Russia under direct German sway. What would be left of Russia would be subjected to the same kind of German political domination planned for France.

Going farther afield. Italy would be allowed some extension of its African empire but would remain "the prisoner of the Mediterranean." Germany intends to hold both Gibraltar and Suez. In Asia Minor and in Africa the plan is merely to substitute German colonial governments or puppet rule for those now established. South Africa is to be treated to a reversal of its present balance of power, with the Boers led by Germans and heavily seeded with new German colonists, taking over the dominant political control and the English residents relegated to an inferior status, probably even being deprived of political representation altogether. The entire continent with the exception of those small areas intended to assuage Italian unhappiness, coming under direct German sovereignty.

England would be used industrially to increase the shipbuilding potential of Germany. But it is to be cut off from its colonial and dominion empire, forcing it down into the economic status of Scandinavia or worse. Its only industrial function would be to build ships for the German naval and merchant marines. Its other industries which compete with German industry would be gradually scrapped or destroyed.

This would be the basis of the new German Empire as it is conceived and frankly outlined in Berlin today. But this is only the beginning. German colonies in South America are expected, when the time is ripe, to conduct revolutions which will bring them into control of those countries. Germany would then have absolute control over all the trade of Europe, Africa and South America. Japan would have Asia. The hope of the more optimistic Nazis is that sometime during this stage in the proceedings the United States would either have made up its mind to "cooperate" in this new German order or would have been taken over politically by the Germanic element in its population. Should it prove incredibly stubborn and "difficult" it would merely be excluded from the rest of the world until such time as German power, fed by the entire industrial structure of Europe and the resources of three continents, was ready for invasion and conquest.

The plan, of course, contemplates completion of the conquest of Europe and Africa before the United States can or will take a part in the war. The diplomatic strategy of "refusing to be provoked" reflects the idea of keeping the United States out of actual war while the preliminary steps of conquering Europe and Africa are in process. But there is also provision for the eventuality of formal American intervention into the war. This plan, and I have seen it in private memoranda, calls for conquest of England. If the British government has fled to Canada and combined British and American fleets are attempting to carry on the war by long-range blockade, the

population of the British Isles would be subjected to deliberate progressive starvation as hostages. The German idea is that Washington and Ottawa would capitulate before allowing the people of those islands to be starved to death to the last man, woman, and child. It may sound incredible to anyone living in the United States who still lives, eats, sleeps, goes to movies, buys gasoline for his car at normal prices and votes every year or two as normal. But it does not sound incredible to anyone like myself who has been living in Europe during the past two years. To me it is just ordinary, matter-of-fact conversation of everyday Berlin. Before I left that city I had become so accustomed to hearing this sort of thing that it simply bored me and I stopped even listening for new details. It goes back to Hitler's original thesis, expounded in Mein Kampf, that if a plan is bold enough and ambitious enough it can be announced with complete impunity because no one will believe it until it has overwhelmed him.

I saw this plan for the starvation of the British Isles in a memorandum which was supposed to have come direct from Nazi-party headquarters in Munich. I, personally, believe that document was authentic. But if it wasn't it was at least indicative of the authentic line of thinking in high-party quarters. The use of deliberate mass starvation as a means to Germany's political ends is nothing new. It is being employed today in Poland. Thousands are starving to death in that country, not because of a shortage of food. Poland always was a net food-exporting country. All that is necessary to prevent starvation is to leave a minimum amount necessary to sustain life. But the Germans go to the length of even digging up the potatoes before they are matured and cutting the wheat before it is ripe to keep it from Poles. This is the evidence of American relief experts who have gone to Poland to study the food situation and report on whether American food should be sent there to prevent starvation. It would be far easier to starve Britain because those islands cannot feed their population. That the Germans are capable of doing it is not a far stretch of imagination. They not only could but actually plan to do it if that becomes necessary to achieve their objective.

Despite all this, a Nazi can be sincere when he says that Germany has no aggressive designs against the United States. It is perfectly true - "if." He leaves that "if" unsaid. They have no designs against us if we will accept complete German political, economic and financial domination of Europe and Africa but also control of South America's trade and its economic development and, of much more direct importance, will trade with Europe and the rest of the world according to German convenience. They would sell us what they chose and buy from us what they chose, at prices fixed by them. Further, all American trade with any part of the world could clear through Berlin. That is not all. The American press would have to be muzzled to prevent expressions "unfriendly" to Germany. American laws and customs would have to be modified wherever they prove irritating or harmful to German sovereignty over the world. It would be a German world, and North America would exist, along with Japan, on the tolerance of Germany. Either the two would unite at some future time to throw off the yoke or would gradually succumb to a degree of domestic interference with their internal lives which would destroy their own independence.

To resist only partially and halfheartedly is a waste of time. The United States must choose one of two courses. Either it should attempt to the full maximum of its ability to prevent this thing from reaching the point where it is a direct challenge to its own independence or it might as

well stand aside and let it come gradually. There is little point in half-hearted resistance. That merely makes the process a trifle more painful. Hitler himself recognizes it as a battle for the domination of the world. He knows what he is talking about and what his intentions are far better than people who merely like to think that he really can't mean it. He does.

There are also the words of the Nazi ruler himself. Here is a statement from one 1941 speech: "It is quite immaterial to me what part of the earth or in which sea or in what air space our German soldiers fight. They will know they battle for fate and freedom and the future of our people forever." Here's another: "I look to the future with fanatical confidence." And the same fanatical belief in eventual worldwide combat is evident in his exaggerated beginning of a sentence with, "Today German forces stand throughout the world...."

Besides Mr. Harsch's statements just read, there are many, many others - writers, businessmen, military men - who have come back home with similar facts to tell, things they couldn't write or radio back while they were still there in Germany. Berlin Diary is one of the latest stories brought out from Berlin.

There is more of this, both in the ranting speeches and the ranting book, Mein Kampf. But what we have quoted, plus the fact of Nazi conquests already made and being made, gives every one of us now in uniform our big immediate reason for doing our parts, for plugging away at the jobs we get, through times that sometimes seem hard and slow, for working with what we've got until there are weapons by millions and planes by hundreds of thousands, and enough men trained besides ourselves to use them all. The chances are great they will all have to be used - used to break up that longtime, year-after-year plan of the Nazis for conquering and running the world.

But there's another reason - our second reason - for making our Army the best one there is. It's an even bigger reason, though a bigger reason than stopping a fanatical, world-wanting despot, army, and nation may seem hard to find. We need a first-rate, powerful Army all the time. It's plain enough now what a risk it has been to let our Army run down the way we have in the last twenty years. It's risky at any time. But we'll be taking far more of a chance if we ever do it again, with airplanes now in the world reaching farther and faster every year, and carrying more and more guns and ammunition and fighting men.

No matter what comes of the present war, there will still be the chance that some other Hitler will get the same insane idea of grabbing and running the world. There was always that chance, and there always will be that chance. And it's our job to see that our Army - which was weak until all of us pitched in to make it a real one, and which is still nowhere near as strong as it must be for the tremendous work it may have to do - does get strong enough to fight any man and any army and any country. Or any combination of countries on earth that ever tries again to carry out a plan to grab off the world.

It's our job - the job of every one of us in uniform. No other job means anything till we've finished with this one. There are two reasons why we've got it to do - two reasons for doing it with every particle of brains and sweat and guts we have. It's the biggest job we'll ever have in our lives.

2. It is conceivable that for some days after this talk, at rest periods, company officers will be asked questions arising out of this talk. While no arguments of large proportion will be permitted, yet a question sincerely asked deserves an answer from the company officers. It is believed that, in this way, the true big picture of the problem ahead of the Army will be presented in its simplest form to the new selectees.

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