

LATEST REPORTS OF LEAFLET REACTIONS

P.W.D./S.H.A.E.F.

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Latest reports of LEAFLET REACTIONS

Number.....10.....

Goebbels gives warning

'VERY CLEVER LEAFLETS'

Express Radio Station

THROUGH his mouth-piece, Karl Siegbold, Goebbels last night broadcast a warning to Germans against Allied leaflets.

German soldiers and civilians were told: "There is not a single sentence in these leaflets which does not want to do us harm. They are addressed to the weak points which exist in every nation.

"It ought to be below our dignity to read what the leaflets say. They are weapons, and we must be careful with all weapons.

"The enemy intends to frighten us, but what he could not achieve by bombs and tanks he will certainly not achieve by leaflets.

"There are two kinds of leaflets. The first is small-size news sheets, very cleverly done, with impressive maps and pictures in many narrow columns. They have a completely bona-fide appearance.

DISTRUST

"But among correct and truthful reports, they contain innumerable half-truths, omissions, exaggerations. Indeed, every news item has every short article, every comment contains a small—only just notice-

able—amount of distrust in the Command. It is openly treacherous, different with lies and broad grinning impudence.

German soldiers are asked what they think of the treachery of July 20, an event which we have indeed long forgotten. German soldiers are fed on lies consisting of fictitious declarations made by German prisoners.

"Or, in the crudest way, we are told that, for such and such reasons, Germany has lost the war. These methods are the same as were used in the last war, 26 years ago. They are the methods that Northcliffe set up.

"Northcliffe knew, however, that the propaganda weapon is always only an auxiliary weapon, and therefore waited until our front began to waver and morale at home was beginning to all and fall.

"The same attempt is being made today."

[* Lord Northcliffe was Director of Propaganda in Enemy Countries in 1918.]

S.B.s were there

PWD - SHAEF
30/9/44

DAILY EXPRESS
Sept. 30, 1944

Latest reports of Leaflet Reactions, No. 10, 30 September 1944

Latest reports of LEAFLET REACTIONS

Number 11-S

LEAFLET SERIES "WG." DRAWS SARCASM, IRONY AND COMPLAINTS

1. A front-page article in the "Westdeutscher Beobachter" of Cologne says in part: "...but the truth about Britain's responsibility towards Europe is told by the leaflets now found everywhere. Their language does not differ in any way from Communist propaganda on the eastern front and they appeal to the lowest instincts of the eastern races. The strangers among us are to replace the red partisans of other countries. Today they are asked to stop working - tomorrow Eisenhower will make them our masters."
2. A two-column article in a Rostock paper says that "people who have lost their homes and even their relatives are not naive enough to believe in the enemy's generosity and decency as emphasised in his leaflets. The millions of leaflets recently dropped addressed to the German workers reminding them of 1918 and asking them to revolt are answered by the scornful laughter of the German workers."
3. The "National Zeitung", Essen, prints an item which says: "It is often noticed that the population is very careless with regard to the leaflets dropped by the enemy. The text of these leaflets is always so undermining that they must immediately be surrendered to the police, as the authorities can draw important conclusions from them and take suitable counter-measures. This regulation must be enforced with the utmost severity."

AND A GERMAN COURT CRACKS DOWN

4. The "Hamburg Fremdenblatt" reports that one Adolf Kittendorf has been sentenced by the High Court to two years' penal servitude for keeping a leaflet dropped by Allied aircraft and showing it to his fellow-workers.

PWD-SHAEF
Leaflet Section - 1w/10/44

Latest reports of LEAFLET REACTIONS

Number 11-T.....

1. EXTRACT FROM REPORT FROM PWD. OFFICER, 21st ARMY GROUP:

"You will be interested to hear that when the final count came in for Le Havre it showed 11,302 prisoners out of 12,000 garrison. Analysis show that over 75% had leaflets on them."

2. EXTRACT FROM REPORT FROM PWD. OFFICER, 12th ARMY GROUP:

"...that particular drop if you recall was for a Russian leaflet to be dropped on a goose-egg around the river east of the town, which was held by forward elements of troops based on Lorient proper. It was impossible for us to get at them by artillery shells, and our intelligence informed us that at the time the whole river line was being held by Russian units. The air-drop, which incidentally was an expert job, netted us 102 prisoners who came over to our side after swimming the river - no mean feat in itself. The net result of this particular operation was that all the Russian troops in that sector were withdrawn and replaced by Germans, thus weakening the inner defenses of Lorient which is our ultimate objective.

"...it is impossible to determine the exact effectiveness of air-drops, but it is a fact that over 80% of all prisoners we have netted on the Brest Peninsula have come in with leaflets in their possession.

"...Korvette Kapitän Fritz Otto, now a prisoner, informed us that with leaflets falling all around his troops he found himself leading a 'bunch of neurotics' and gave the whole thing up, coming over to us.

"...thanks again for the great assistance, and please pass on my thanks to the gang who are actually doing the dropping. They are doing a great job and it is really being appreciated."

PWD-SHAEF
Leaflet Section - 1w/10/44

Latest reports of Leaflet Reactions, No. 11-T, October 1944

Latest reports of LEAFLET REACTIONS

Number 12

1. 50% OF PRISONERS IN AACHEN AREA HAD LEAFLETS ON THEM

A report issued by SHAEF says that of a sample group of 200 prisoners captured in and around Aachen in the middle of October, approximately 50% had leaflets on their person at the time of their capture.

The report goes on to say, "The Nazis still have not been able to supply their troops with any substantial amounts of German propaganda. Few or no radios exist in the front lines; newspapers are extremely scarce, while many units have had no mail for weeks. Interest in our leaflets is greatly enhanced by this communications vacuum. A soldier in the Westwall area described the reactions of his comrades in this respect as 'We are starving for anything printed. Whatever comes to us we swallow eagerly. The more your leaflets include, the more we welcome them.'"

2. NAZI PAPER COMPARES LEAFLETS TO TROJAN HORSE

"Front und Heimat" in a recent article titled "The Trojan Horse" says, "The enemy has whole legions of Trojan Horses: Leaflets, Radio Stations, Self-satisfied appeals to the German people, to the front, to the women, to the tired and susceptible. These are modern Trojan Horses."

3. GERMAN STAFF SUSPICIOUS OF OUR LEAFLET WRITERS' GOOD INTENTIONS

An order from a General Staff Officer circulating behind the German lines says in part: "The enemy, especially the Americans, is attempting of late to influence the German soldier more strongly by leaflets. Their adherence to the Geneva Convention might give the impression that we are facing a chivalrous, fair opponent. This attitude, however, does not come from a kindness of heart, but is rather the means to an end. Apart from the fact that the enemy wishes to keep up his reputation of humanitarianism in the world, he also tries to weaken the will of the German soldier to fight by promising him golden mountains and Paradise in captivity. Let us never forget that this is the same enemy who destroys our cities. His war aims remain the same - the complete destruction of our Fatherland."

PWD - SHAEF
Leaflet Section - 3/11/44