

Impressions of Berlin Ruins -----

The devastation is complete. Unter der Linden and the streets are relatively clear, but there is not a single building which is not gutted. On some of the streets the stench -- sweet and sickish from dead bodies -- is overwhelming.

The people all have completely colorless faces -- a yellow tinge with pale tan lips. They are all carrying bundles. Where they are going, no one seems to know. I wonder whether they do.

They sleep in cellars. The women will do anything for food. One or two of the women wore lipstick, but most seem to be trying to make themselves as unobtrusive as possible to escape the notice of the Russians.

The Russians were short, stocky, and dour looking. Their features were heavy and their uniforms dirty,

Hitler's Reich Chancellery was a shell. The walls were chipped and scarred by bullets, showing the terrific fight which took place at the time of its fall. Hitler's air-raid shelter was about 120 feet down into the ground - well furnished but completely devastated. The room where Hitler was supposed to have met his death showed scorched walls and traces of fire. There is no complete evidence, however, that the body that was found was Hitler's body. The Russians doubt that he is dead.

her fiance is in an Italian prisoner-of-war camp. She feels that Russia and the United States will fight when Russia is ready, They now know that our equipment is far superior.

She feels that that war would be the ruination of Germany which would be the common battleground.

Note:

SS was enlarged in 1942 because Himmler wanted to increase his own power. Their brutality was, therefore, diluted by forced recruits.

Note:

According to our naval experts, the bombing of Germany was not effective in stopping their production and production increased three-fold during 1942-44.

Note:

One of the debatable questions now/^{in Berlin} is whether Berlin will ever be built up again into a large city. If Germany remains divided into four administrative units as she is now, Berlin will remain a ruined and unproductive city. In any case, it will be many years before Berlin can clear the wreckage and get the material to rebuild.