

FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS



FRITZ THYSSEN

On this and ensuing pages, LIFE presents a series of heretofore unpublished letters from Fritz Thyssen, No. 1 financial backer of the Nazi party and currently No. 1 German exile, addressed to Hitler, Göring and other Nazi leaders. LIFE's editors believe that these letters have a significance for U. S. readers far beyond their obvious value as pure news. In the first place they constitute an astonishing revelation of the cleavage that has occurred in National Socialist Germany since last fall. In the second place they are an important lesson in what can happen to a major industrialist who makes the mistake of supposing that he can safely back any kind of dictatorship.

When August Thyssen died after the War, he left in the *August Thyssen Hütte* a huge holding company comprising coal, steel, iron, oil and foreign investments, valued at somewhere between 600 and 800 million gold marks. This self-made iron-master had been the industrial giant of the Wilhelminian period, the creator of the modern steel and iron industry of Germany. (Curiously, he was the first German industrialist to realize the vital importance of Scandinavian iron ores and to secure their supply for Germany.) His death, at the most critical moment in the existence of Germany and German industry, seemed to be the final blow to his own enterprises. In the following two decades his son and heir, Fritz Thyssen, proved himself to be a chip of the old block. He not only secured the survival of the *August Thyssen Hütte*, but also fortified and enlarged the concern. He not only saved his own inheritance but also rescued the remaining independent steel and iron industries of defeated Germany from utter decomposition. Unlike Hugo Stinnes, he was not an inflationist. He did not buy up feeble and tottering steel and iron works at phantastic bargain prices. In 1925 he safeguarded their continued existence by combining them in one gigantic trust, the *Vereinigte Stahlwerke*. At the outbreak of the present war, he was recognized as the outstanding industrial leader of the Third Reich. His power and his influence in Germany, as the principal holder of the *August Thyssen Hütte* and the *Vereinigte Stahlwerke*, seemed unlimited.

Unfortunately, circumstances forced him to enter politics as well. When the French occupied the Ruhr in 1923, he remained, unlike so many other industrial magnates, at his post in the Rhineland. He organized the passive resistance against the French military authorities. He was arrested by the

French and placed before a military tribunal. He was accused of having dismantled the whole economic structure of the Ruhr and the Rhineland, by inducing organized labor to resist and to sabotage. Furthermore, he had to face the formidable technical accusation of having disobeyed French military orders under martial law.

His defender was one of the most prominent lawyers of France. His defense culminated in the famous sentence: "I am a German and I refuse to obey French orders on German soil." He was acquitted. Of this acquittal, French justice can rightly be as proud as Fritz Thyssen himself. Singlehanded he had defeated the French annexationists and singlehanded he had saved for the German Republic its two most vital provinces—the Ruhr and the Rhineland.

In the same year, 1923, Ludendorff induced him to join the National Socialist Party. He declared his adherence to Adolf Hitler openly and at once. He did not wait for the *Machtübernahme* in 1933 to display his Nazi badge. Winning him over was the greatest single triumph the Party ever achieved before coming into power. It is more than doubtful if Hitler could ever have succeeded without the moral, political and financial support which he received from the steel king in the ensuing ten years. This constitutes a tremendous responsibility, which weighs heavily today on the conscience of the self-exiled patriot.

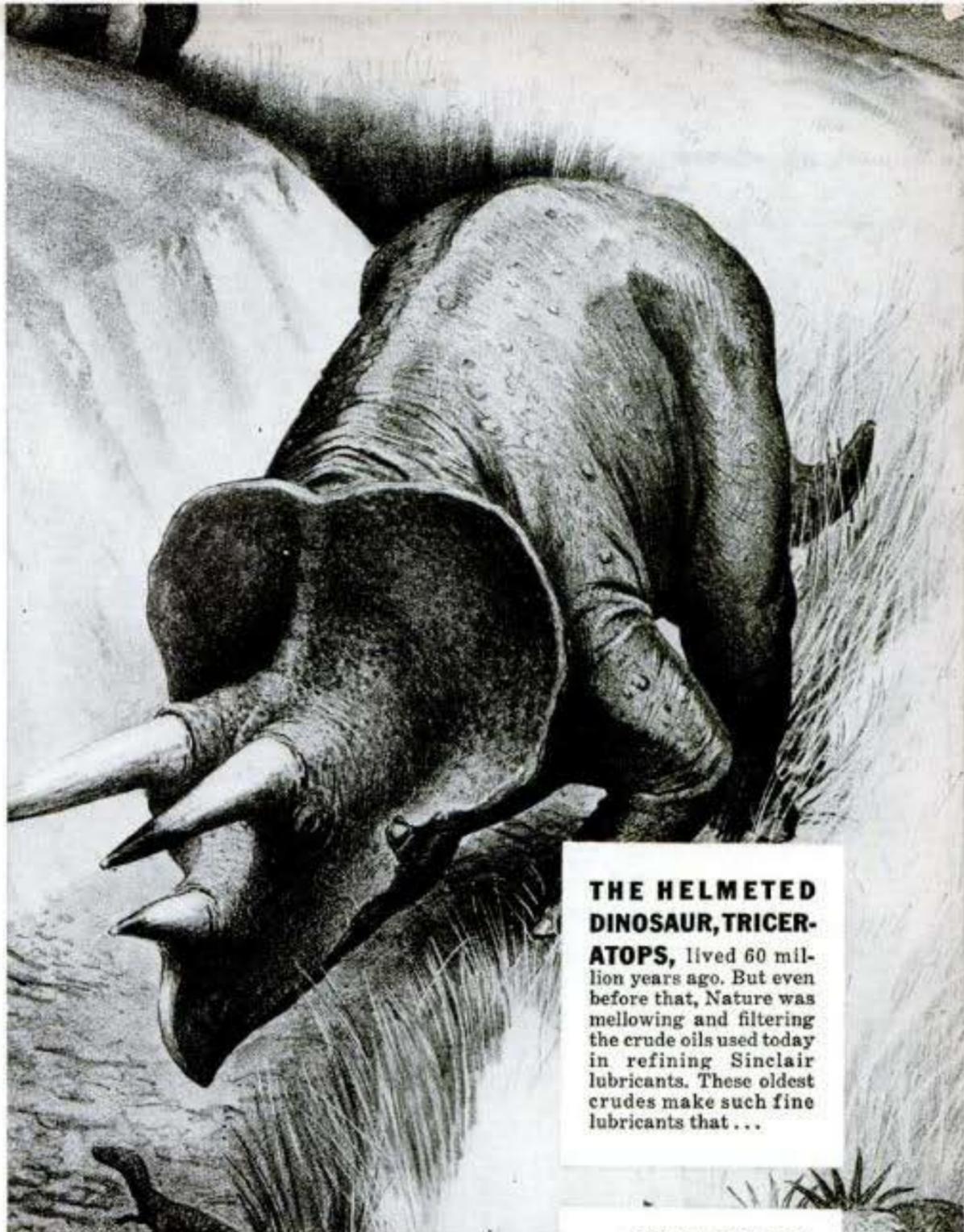
Like so many conservatives and capitalists in Germany, Italy and elsewhere, Fritz Thyssen saw in Fascism the only salvation from Communism. As a deeply religious Christian, he realizes today that trying to save Germany from the frying pan of Communism, he only helped push her into the fire of Nihilism.

It was a fateful error. If it deserves any punishment, the ironical fact that Fritz Thyssen is being branded now as a "Communist" by the Nazi authorities, and that his huge property has been confiscated—several months after Hitler's joining hands with Stalin—by force of the anti-Communist laws of the Third Reich, is ample penalty in itself. A further enhancement of it is provided by the appointment of the banker, Baron Kurt von Schröder in Cologne, as a trustee of the Thyssen's confiscated property. It was in the office of this very Baron von Schröder that he, Fritz Thyssen, Adolf Hitler, Franz von Papen and others assembled in the last days of 1932 to provide a fund of 45 million marks for the tottering Nazi party, which was then faced with the imminent danger of complete dissolution in consequence of discouragement, demoralization and impecunity.

Fritz Thyssen did not and does not believe that Germany can win this war. No one knows the economic potentialities and shortcomings of his country better than he does. He is trying his utmost to undeceive the German people, to remove Nazism, to end the war.

In 1917, a world sensation was created by the accidental publication of a memorandum beseeching the political, military and economic leaders of Imperial Germany to terminate a

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THE HELMETED DINOSAUR, TRICERATOPS, lived 60 million years ago. But even before that, Nature was mellowing and filtering the crude oils used today in refining Sinclair lubricants. These oldest crudes make such fine lubricants that...



... AMERICAN AIRLINES RELIES ON SINCLAIR MOTOR OIL in operating the nation's largest air transport system. You'll find Sinclair motor oil of the same high quality available for your car at your nearby Sinclair Dealer. Ask for Opaline or Sinclair Pennsylvania motor oil. They last so long they save you money.



**IT'S FUN
TO KEEP
FIT ON
A BIKE!**

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SOON TO APPEAR IN THE
NEW UNIVERSAL PICTURE
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**IT'S FUN TO
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Whether you're seven or seventy, you will like riding a bike. For it turns health-building exercise into great fun. And it's so inexpensive every member of the family can have a bike of his own. Why not see your neighborhood dealer in bicycles at once? Start riding a bike today!

CYCLE TRADES OF AMERICA, Inc.
Chanin Building, New York City

Keep Trim --- Keep Slim --- Keep Cycling!

**FRITZ THYSSEN'S
LETTERS**

(continued)

war which they could not possibly win. The author of that plea was Dr. Muehlon, a partner of Krupp. He had to resign his partnership, but remained otherwise unmolested. For a few months—in 1918—he was an international celebrity; he still lives as a forgotten old man in Switzerland. The future will show if Fritz Thyssen's fear for Germany will be borne out as fully as were the apprehensions of Dr. Muehlon of Krupp's.—ED.

Paris, April 10, 1940

In publishing the papers leading to my break with Adolf Hitler, I wish to show that the German nation, which elected Hitler its leader because of his professed opposition to Communism, is innocent of the developments that turned National Socialism into its very opposite.

I feel that everything should be done that might contribute to ending the war, that might prevent the useless sacrifice of countless young lives, that might spare Europe so much sorrow, so many tears.

FRITZ THYSSEN

When the Germans invaded Poland, Fritz Thyssen happened to be in Bad Gastein in Salzburg. On the evening of Aug. 31, he sent the following urgent telegram to Field Marshal Göring:

"Received order from Gauleitung (District Leadership) Essen to keep ready for airplane flight to Berlin. I cannot comply with this order because of unsatisfactory condition of health. In my view a kind of armistice ought to be possible to gain time for negotiations. I am against the war. A war will make Germany dependent on Russia also in the matter of raw materials and thereby she will lose her position as a world power.

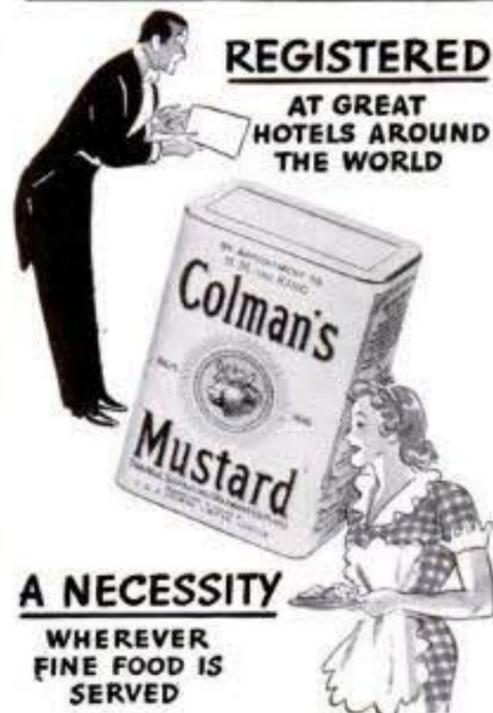
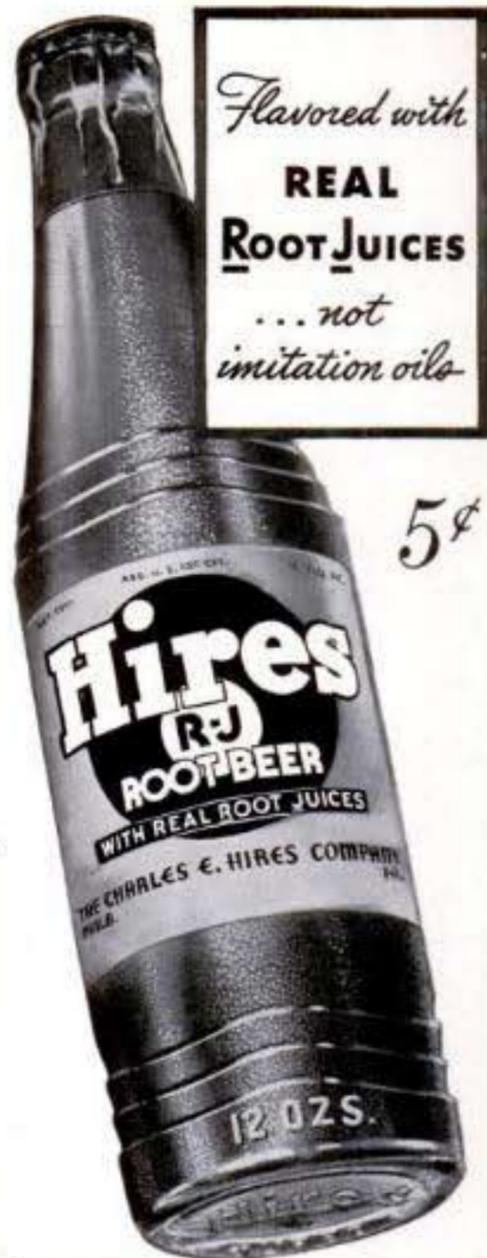
Greetings,
THYSSEN"

This telegram remained unanswered. A few days after the outbreak of the war, Fritz Thyssen and his family crossed the German frontier into Switzerland. From there he sent on Sept. 22, 1939, the following message to Göring:

Memorandum by Fritz Thyssen, Member of the Reichstag, dispatched by messenger to Field Marshal Göring:

- 1) On Aug. 31, at 9 p. m. I sent the following urgent telegram to Field Marshal Göring [see above].
- 2) On Sept. 1, Mr. Hitler said during the session of the Reichstag: "Anyone who is not with me is a traitor and will be treated as such."
- 3) This remark I consider not only a threat, but also a violation of my constitutional rights as a member of the Reichstag.
- 4) I am not only entitled, I am obliged to express my views, particularly when I am convinced that Germany is being led into grave disaster. Mr. Hitler has no right to threaten me when I say what I think.
- 5) Now as before I am against the war. As the war has started already, Germany ought to try to put an end to it as soon as possible, for the longer it lasts, the worse will be the peace terms for Germany.
- 6) It is not Poland that broke the pact with Germany, that pact to which Mr. Hitler himself repeatedly referred as a guaranty of peace. In this respect I also refer to Hitler's speech on Sept. 26, 1938.
- 7) In order to achieve peace, it will be necessary that Germany returns to conditions which conform in every respect to the Constitution. Where the Constitution is not respected, there will be anarchy in the end. The oath of allegiance taken by the individual is valid only if also the leaders live up to their oaths.
- 8) In the meeting of the Reichstag on Sept. 1, approximately 100 members were absent. Their seats were taken by Party officials. This I consider a

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COLMAN'S FOR SEASONING

FREE RECIPE BOOKLET

Atlantis Sales Corp., Sole Distributor, 3349
Mustard Street, Rochester, N.Y. Please send
me 12 new Colman's recipes.

Name _____
Address _____

Your Barber says: "GET OFF THE WATER WAGON"



GET OFF THE WATER WAGON! Don't soak your hair with water to comb it, barbers say. They are experts in hair care and know water washes away natural oils, leaves hair wild, unmanageable. Kreml grooms hair, keeps it neatly in place.



DON'T GO to the other extreme and plaster your hair with greasy goo and give it a patent leather, gigolo look. Kreml isn't greasy, keeps hair neat and natural looking.



WHILE YOU still have hair, take good care of it with Kreml Hair tonic. It checks excessive falling hair, removes ugly dandruff scales and relieves itching scalp.



USE KREML DAILY—the wonderful tonic-dressing that keeps your hair looking its natural best—easy to comb—always neatly groomed, never sticky or greasy—dandruff scales removed, excessive falling hair checked. Ask for Kreml at your drug store or barber shop.

To further aid your hair, use Kreml Shampoo. Made from an 80% olive oil base, it cleanses hair and scalp thoroughly, rinses out quickly, leaves hair easy to manage.

HINT TO THE LADIES: Kreml Hair Tonic puts hair in splendid condition for permanents—makes permanents look lovelier.

KREML

REMOVES DANDRUFF SCALES—CHECKS EXCESSIVE FALLING HAIR
RELIEVES ITCHING SCALP—NOT GREASY—MAKES THE HAIR BEHAVE

FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS

(continued)

mockery of the Constitution, against which I protest.

- 9) I demand that the German public be informed that as a member of the Reichstag I have voted against the war. Should there have been any more members who voted as I did, their votes too are to be made public.
- 10) On Aug. 31, shortly before the above mentioned telegram was dispatched, the news was wired to me that a Mr. von Remnitz had suddenly died at Dachau. Mr. von Remnitz is the son-in-law of my sister, the Baroness von Berg, residing at Munich. Mr. von Remnitz had been interned immediately after the Anschluss of Austria, allegedly on account of his activities as a Legitimist before the Anschluss. After his arrest I addressed myself at once to Buerckel, the Gauleiter of Vienna, but without ever being favored with a reply, which is characteristic for present conditions in Germany. I demand to be informed whether Mr. von Remnitz has died a natural death, or whether his death was due to other reasons. In the latter event I reserve to myself further steps.

Three certified copies were taken of this memorandum. No other copies exist. The copies are still in my possession at this moment and are in safe keeping.

Above memorandum was delivered by a messenger to Gauleiter Terboven, to be forwarded by him to Field Marshal Goring. It remained unanswered by Goring, but Gauleiter Terboven sent the following communication to Fritz Thyssen:

Gauleiter Terboven to Dr. Fritz Thyssen:

- 1) I declare in the name of the Field Marshal that neither a telegram nor a letter from you have come into his hands: it was established, moreover, that the Field Marshal's office did not receive said telegram or letter either.
- 2) From this fact, it appears that the closing sentence in the speech of the Führer could in no way have been aimed at any particular person.
- 3) In the event of your prompt return, the Field Marshal guarantees that no steps whatsoever, of a personal or economic nature, will be taken against you.

On the receipt of this communication, Fritz Thyssen wrote the following letter to Goring:

Oct. 1, 1939

Dear Field Marshal General,

I refer to my letter to you of Sept. 22, 1939 and its enclosure, which was handed over by messenger to Gauleiter Terboven, to be forwarded to you. I received a statement from Gauleiter Terboven to which I wish to remark as follows:

1) It is quite impossible that my urgent telegram of Aug. 31, from Bad Gastein, should not have arrived. It is to be hoped that in Germany a telegram addressed to the Field Marshal will always arrive. Also my letter, dated Sept. 22, must have arrived, for otherwise Gauleiter Terboven could not have taken the stand as defined above.

2) It may be that my telegram did not arrive in time, although it had been dispatched by me immediately upon receipt of the order to keep ready for the meeting of the Reichstag. If, therefore, the possibility is to be admitted that the speech of the Chancellor was not influenced by it, in view of the circumstances I was, nevertheless, entitled to assume that such had been the case, the more so, as I was convinced that I alone of all the members of the Reichstag had dared to voice his dissenting opinion.

3) I have never asked you to protect me against personal or economic consequences, resulting from my political actions. I do not understand how such an idea could have ever entered your mind. Although I have given my support to the Party ever since 1923 (at first at the request of General Ludendorff), and although I have fully complied with all

Here are the only Rubber Gloves that are really pleasant to wear easy to slide on and off and lined throughout with soft, absorbent Stockinette



OUTSIDE: The pliant Latex surface is absolutely non-skid—thanks to thousands of tiny suction-like cups shown in microphoto below.



INSIDE: They're lined completely with soft, comfortable Stockinette—so absorbent your hands always remain dry.

● Once you've worn Patrician Gloves, you'll wonder how you ever got along without them. For here, at last, are rubber gloves that combine all-around comfort with long, rugged wear. You'll find them equally pleasant to use for gardening, dusting, cleaning—literally dozens of chores. Cloth-lined throughout, they permit use in much hotter water . . . slide on and off with amazing ease. And in the kitchen, they're doubly practical. For with their patented Suction-Grip surface, wet, soapy dishes just won't slip from your hands.

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Specialists in Fine Rubber Goods for 65 Years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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**WASHES
RINSES
DAMP-DRIES**

The Successor
to the
Washing Machine

Join the Happy 100,000 Who Now Let Bendix Do All the Work!



I HATE HOUSEWORK! I think it's silly to kill yourself over the washing when you can own a Bendix Home Laundry for less than the price of most washing machines! Believe me, if a machine can wash, rinse and damp-dry by itself, I'm all for it! My Bendix is a life-saver!



I WORRIED ABOUT THE CHILDREN catching their hands or hair in my old washing machine. When I heard about the Bendix Home Laundry I bought one right away. It's all-enclosed and safe . . . a great relief to me. There's no danger of wash-day accidents with a Bendix in the house.



I LOVE PRETTY HANDS . . . and harsh, soapy laundry water ruins them. Mine used to be so rough and red I was ashamed to meet my friends. Now I never have to expose my hands to strong suds . . . and you should see the difference. My Bendix is the best beauty treatment I ever bought.

YOU, too, can enjoy the great time-, labor- and money-saving advantages of Bendix for only \$99.50*! This amazing SUCCESSOR to the washing machine costs less to operate, uses less soap and bluing, no more electricity. And gets clothes cleaner . . . removes more harmful germs than other home laundering methods. Ask your dealer for a FREE HOME TRIAL today or mail coupon below.

TRADE IN your old washer . . . it may be worth more than enough to cover the down payment. Bendix can be purchased on easy monthly terms.

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FREE HOME TRIAL . . . I would like to have a FREE TRIAL of the Bendix Home Laundry in my home. I understand that this places me under no obligation. Will you please see that this is arranged? Thank you.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Phone _____

* Model U, 200-26. (Same overhauled capacity as the De Luxe Model.) Slightly higher in Southwest and west of Rockies. Final installation charge.



THYSSEN LUNCHES WITH WIFE AT LOCARNO HOTEL, SWITZERLAND

FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS

(continued from page 14)

of your wishes, and of those of Mr. Hitler, Mr. Hess and others—for which there exists ample proof—I have never discussed with you or with anyone else any wishes of an economic nature concerning myself. I addressed myself to you only three times—alas, much too seldom—namely:

1) I protested to you when Mr. Weitzel, the Police Chief of Düsseldorf, whom you promoted to the rank of State Councillor, distributed a more than vulgar pamphlet against the Catholic Church. I was always a good Catholic and I shall always keep allegiance to my faith, and now even more so than ever before. My protest against that outrage had no effect.

2) I protested to you when on Nov. 9, 1938, the Jews were robbed and tortured in the most cowardly and brutal manner, and when the Government Chief of Düsseldorf, whom you had installed yourself, was almost killed and driven away. There again was no response! As a sign of my protest, I resigned at that time my position as State Councillor. I asked the Prussian Minister of Finance to stop my State Councillor salary. There was no answer from you! The payments, however, which were made in disregard of my request, are deposited in a blocked account with the Thyssen Bank, awaiting your pleasure.

3) I protested to you when the greatest misfortune happened and Germany was once more plunged into a war, without the consent of Parliament or of the State Council. I declare as clearly and firmly as possible that I am against this policy, and that I always shall be against it, even at the risk of being branded as a traitor. In view of the fact that in 1933, though alone and defenseless and not shielded by armaments costing 90 billions, I organized the Passive Resistance on territory occupied by the enemy, and thus saved the Rhineland and the Ruhr, such accusation is absurd.

I can but address the urgent appeal to you and to the Führer to cease pursuing a policy which at best will drive Germany into the arms of Communism, or otherwise will mean the *finis* praevariae. Please try to find out quietly the terms on which it still might be possible to prevent a catastrophe. It will be necessary, though, that Germany returns to constitutional methods, so that contracts and agreements, law and justice, will once more regain their meaning.

In closing I wish to express my regret that I have to write to you from abroad in order to be able to express openly my opinions. You will understand, however, that it would be sheer idiocy on my part to do otherwise, in view of the events of 1934, showing how political opponents—to which I too now belong—were treated. That these methods have not changed is proven, deplorably enough, by the case of Mr. von Bennix who, as stated in the enclosure to my letter of Sept. 22, died, in true Dachau manner, allegedly without any visible cause. Novel is the fact that Mr. von Ribbentrop did not shrink from taking possession of the dead man's property.

Accept the expression of my high esteem.

FRITZ THYSSEN, M.D.R.

The only reply to this letter was the following circular, sent to every Bank in Germany but not allowed to be mentioned in the press.

"By virtue of a letter addressed to me by the Secret State Police, State Police District Berlin, dated Oct. 13, I give notice to our members for their

attention, of the following Decree issued by the State Police District Düsseldorf:

In compliance with an order given by Field Marshal General Göring to Mr. Terboven, District Leader, President in Chief and Commissioner of the Reich's Defense, Defense Unit 4, the total property of Fritz Thyssen, Dr. jur. hon. c., Mülheim-Ruhr, Speldorf, is confiscated by the State Police according to section 1 of the Law concerning the Secret State Police. It is Mr. Terboven, Commissioner of the Reich's Defense, District Leader and President in Chief, appointed Trustee by Field Marshal General Göring, who is exclusively authorized to dispose of the property.

As it was not possible to accurately establish the extent of the property of Fritz Thyssen, Dr. jur. h. c., or of his wife, I request that all banks be instructed by a confidential circular letter to report without delay and within five days to the State Police at Düsseldorf, attention of Dr. Haselbacher, Government Chief Counsel, or his substitute in the Office, all accounts, deposits and safe deposits carried by them in the name of either Fritz Thyssen, Dr. jur. hon. c., or of his wife, Amelie Thyssen, nee zur Helle, born in Mülheim-Rhein on Dec. 9, 1877.

Heil Hitler!

The Director of the Economy Group of Private Banking, Central Union of German Banking Firms and Bankers, REINHART Director of the Commerz and Privatbank Berlin."

Mr. Terboven, Commissioner of the Reich's Defense, District Leader and President in Chief, conferred his trusteeship upon Baron Kurt von Schroder, proprietor of the banking firm of J. H. Stein, Cologne, who accepted the appointment.

The crime of which Fritz Thyssen is accused (it does not appear of which crime Mrs. Thyssen is accused) cannot have been very grave, because on Oct. 1, 1939, he made the following entry in his file:

"When on Sept. 26, 1939, Dr. A. Vögler, Dortmund, delivered to me Gaudelater Terboven's written declaration (mentioned in the letter to Göring of Oct. 1, 1939), Mr. Vögler added verbally that on my return I should take along all the certified copies in my possession of my memorandum dated Sept. 22, 1939, and that they then would be destroyed together with the original.

"This would have meant in fact, that I would have sacrificed my political creed in exchange for the benefit of personal and financial security. I refused to do so and, instead, sent the letter of Oct. 1, 1939, to Göring whereupon the confiscation of my entire property was decreed."

Subsequently a notice appeared in the "Reichsanzeiger," which again was not to be published in the press, and which is quoted in the following letter of Fritz Thyssen to Adolf Hitler:

Dr. Fritz Thyssen, Member of the Reichstag, Mülheim-Ruhr, Speldorf

Locarno, Dec. 28, 1939

Mr. Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of the German Reich, Berlin

Mr. Chancellor of the Reich!

In the German Reichsanzeiger Nr. 293 of Dec. 13, 1939, I read the following notice:

In view of the Law of May 26, 1933, concerning the confiscation of Communist property (sic) (Legislation of the Reich, Issue 1, page 293), in conjunction with section 1 of the Decree of

1¢ MORE BUYS BOTH PRODUCTS ONLY 5 1/2¢

FOR THIS REGULAR 85¢ VALUE

JERIS

ANTISEPTIC HAIR TONIC ★ MANGE SARCOPTIC SHAMPOO

Here's where a penny goes a long, long way! Buy a bottle of Jeris Hair Tonic, at the regular 50c price—and get a 35c bottle of Jeris Shampoo, for only ONE CENT MORE! This extraordinary opportunity to stock up on these two effective hair preparations is for a limited time only . . . **Take advantage of it, TODAY!**

AT DRUG STORES AND BARBER SHOPS

SHAVE THE NEW PAINLESS WAY

BARBERS KNOW WHAT'S GOOD—A BIT OF NOXZEMA BEFORE LATHERING

Famous medicated cream softens beard—soothes sensitive skin

If you have a tough beard and a tender skin, try the trick used by scores of barbers. Just apply a little medicated Noxzema before lathering—or use it alone as a latherless shave. See how Noxzema soothes and protects sensitive skin . . . no razor pull—no drag—no smarting after-shave irritation! And notice how cool and comfortable your skin feels.

Start shaving the new Noxzema way today. For a limited time you can get a generous 25¢ trial jar of Noxzema for only 19¢ at any drug or department store.

25¢ TRIAL JAR 19¢

MENDS MOST ANYTHING

Iron Glue holds tight, is extra strong. Mends wood, glass, china, leather, toys, most anything. You can buy it most anywhere—1/4 pt. to 1 gal. cans or 10c bottles. McCormick Sales Co., 408 Light St., Baltimore, Md.

IRON GLUE AN ELEPHANT FOR STRENGTH

For WELL-GROOMED NAILS!

The Wigder File has Triple-Cut Teeth. Stays sharp, does not grate, leaves nails smooth. Cleanser Point guards skin. At drug, and 10-cent stores.

Wigder quality costs no more. MADE IN U.S.A. 10¢

May 31, 1933 (law No. 39), and the law of July 14, 1933, regarding the seizure of property of individuals hostile to the People and the State (Legislation, Issue 1, p. 479) the entire movable property of Dr. Fritz Thyssen, formerly of Mülheim, Ruhr, at present abroad, and also the real estate owned by him, is confiscated in favor of the Prussian State, with the effect that in making this decree publicly known by inserting it in the German Reichsanzeiger and in the Prussian Staatsanzeiger, the property indicated above passes into the ownership of the Prussian State.

No appeal against this decree is legally admissible.

Düsseldorf, Dec. 11, 1939

The Government President, Reeder.

Any justification of this measure is lacking. I state herewith that no court or administrative procedure whatsoever has been instituted against me. To this day I have never received any communication from the Government of the German Reich; except the statement which Dr. A. Vögler, by order of the District Leader of Essen, handed over to me. In that statement I was asked to withdraw a political memorandum which I had filed as a member of the Reichstag, and to destroy all copies of it. I was promised personal and economic security, if I complied. I declined this "peace offer," because being a member of the Reichstag, my political creed was not for sale. Moreover, I have never been called upon to account in any way for my personal or political attitude. Your Ministry of Propaganda even denied that any action against me was pending. The confiscation of my property as promulgated in the Reichsanzeiger is an undisguised and brutal violation of law, a measure contrary to the Constitution, to Law and to Rights. I protest most vigorously against this measure and declare the Reich as well as all persons aiding in this confiscation now or in the future, among them particularly, Baron von Schröder, Cologne, the appointed Trustee, as personally responsible to me. The time will come when my rights will be unrestrictedly respected. I especially warn against any interference with my wife's property, or that of my children, the Count and Countess Zichy. I protest most vigorously against any violation of the estate of my father, August Thyssen, to whom Germany owes a good deal of the greatness of her industry.

My conscience is clear. I feel free of any guilt. My sole error was that I believed in you, Adolf Hitler, the Führer, and in the movement you led. I believed with all the ardor of one passionately German. Since 1923 I have made the heaviest sacrifices for the National Socialist movement. I solicited membership for the Party and fought for it, without ever wishing or asking anything for myself. I was always inspired by the hope that our endeavors would rescue our unfortunate German people. When the National Socialist Party came into power, the initial developments seemed to justify my belief, at least as long as Mr. von Papen was still Vice Chancellor. The same Mr. von Papen to whom you owed your appointment to the Chancellorship of the Reich, by its President, General von Hindenburg. The same Mr. von Papen, in front of whom you took a solemn oath in a sacred place—the Church of the Garrison of Potsdam—to uphold the Constitution. Don't forget that your rise was not the result of some great revolutionary action, but was due to the country's liberal constitution, to which you are bound by your oath.

In the course of time, however, a disastrous change took place. At an early stage already I felt it necessary to voice my protest against the persecution of Christianity, against the brutalization of its priests, against the desecration of its churches.

When on Nov. 9, 1938, the Jews were robbed and tortured in the most cowardly and most brutal manner, and their synagogues destroyed all over Germany, I protested once more. As an outward expression of my repugnance, I resigned my position of State Councilor. All my protests obtained no reply and no remedy.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Newfoundland comes to your aid in mixing summer drinks



THE Newfoundland is developed with deep lungs and heavy coat for the strong tides and icy waters into which his rescue work takes him. Since 1870, Fleischmann's Gin has been developed to bring velvety smoothness to the icy drinks you prefer in the summertime. Every kernel of grain from which Fleischmann's is distilled is selected for this purpose. That's why Fleischmann's is called a *pedigreed* gin. Let America's first gin come to the aid of your parties this summer.



Would you like a reputation for prize-winning drinks? See your dealer for "The Mixer's Manual" or write Box B, The Fleischmann Distilling Corp., Peekskill, N. Y.



Fleischmann's Gin

A PEDIGREED GIN FOR PRIZE-WINNING DRINKS

Distilled from American Grain. 90 Proof.

Copyright 1940, The Fleischmann Distilling Corporation, Peekskill, New York.

Boys!
Girls!

NEW FREE BIKE
BOOK FOR YOU!



Here are all the Schwinn-Built bicycles to choose from! Twenty-four pages of them, beautifully illustrated in natural colors. Get your free copy of this helpful bicycle buyer's guide before you buy. Just address: Arnold, Schwinn & Co., 1716 N. Kildare Ave., Chicago.

There's always a best—in bicycles it's Schwinn-Built



Ride Schwinn-Built Bicycles

IT'S A SOFT LIFE
IN *Nettleton*
LOAFERS



\$6.35

Luggage Grain LOAFER.
Hand-sewed Algonquin
Seam. Tan 199, Black 190.



\$8.35

White and Tan LOAFER.
With red rubber sole
and heel. 194.



\$9.85

Ventilated Lazy Lacer.
Tan and White 188,
all Tan 187.



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FRITZ THYSSEN'S
LETTERS

(continued)

Now you have concluded a pact with Communism. Your Propaganda Ministry even dares to state that the good Germans who voted for you, the professed opponent of Communism, are, in essence, identical with those beastly anarchists who have plunged Russia into tragedy, and who were described by you yourself as "bloodstained common criminals" (*Mein Kampf*, p. 750).

When the greatest of all disasters occurred, when Germany was once more plunged into a war, without the consent of her Parliament or the State Council, I declared emphatically my dissension.

Being a member of the Reichstag, it is my duty to express my views and also to adhere to them. It is a crime against the German nation if its men and particularly its parliamentary representatives, behind whom you are wont to seek cover against the outside world, are no longer allowed to say what they think. I do not submit to force. I refuse to cover your crimes with my name. Even though you declared in the Reichstag Session of Sept. 1, 1939: "He who is not with me is a traitor and will be treated as such."

I refuse to endorse the policy adopted of late. I refuse to condone this war into which the German nation has been plunged so frivolously, and for the horrors of which you and your advisers will be held responsible. Against the accusation of being a traitor, I am protected by my past. It is just this adherence to my political faith that makes it impossible for me to abandon the true ideals and the original principles of National Socialism. In my own house you pronounced the ultimate goal of the movement. It was to lead back to the monarchy. "Leadership of the Germans and monarchy," you said, "are essentially identical." Social justice, social appeasement was to lead to a totalitarian guild state. May I remind you that, with such object in mind, you charged me to erect at Düsseldorf the Institute of the Guilds, though, one year later, you deserted the idea and myself. You even permitted that the Head of the Institute, who had been appointed by myself in agreement with your Mr. Hess, was interned in your infamous concentration camp at Dachau. It was that same Dachau where my nephew had died suddenly. Of his castle, Fuschl near Salzburg, you made a present to Mr. von Ribbentrop, who was brazen enough to receive there the Foreign Minister of the King of Italy and the envoy of Mussolini.

I want to recall to your mind also the fact that when you sent your Mr. Göring to the Holy Father in Rome and to the Kaiser in Doorn, his mission surely was not to prepare them both for your impending alliance with Communism. And yet, you suddenly concluded this alliance, and you thus committed an act that nobody would have condemned more strongly than you yourself. See pages 740-750 in your book *Mein Kampf*.

Your present policy amounts to suicide. Its beneficiary will be your arch-enemy of yesterday, who is your "friend of today"—unless the valiant Finns with their trust in God disappoint all sinister expectations. Your new ally is still the same Russia of which your intimate adviser, Mr. Keppler, Secretary of State in the Foreign Office and outstanding diplomat, said as late as May 1939, that she must become German as far as the borders of the Ural. I do hope, however, that these frank words of your trusted diplomat will not tend to weaken the strong impression which your so sincerely meant birthday wish must have made upon your new intimate, Stalin.

Your new policy, Mr. Hitler, is driving Germany into an abyss and the German nation into perdition. Turn back as long as it is still possible. Your policy will terminate in a *finis germaniae*. Think of the oath you swore in Potsdam. Give back to the Reich a free Parliament, give back to the German nation freedom of conscience, freedom of thought and freedom of speech. Cre-

LIFE'S PICTURES



Ralph Morse, who took the pictures of the boys' battle on pages 100-105, is one of the youngest of the photographers who regularly take pictures for LIFE. Now 22, he studied at C. C. N. Y. and spent a year working as assistant to Photographer George Karger, from whom he learned almost everything he knows. Ralph says every time he goes on a job for LIFE, he has to buy a new pair of shoes. The boys' battle in Waterbury was no exception. His car got stuck in the mud and he had to wade in it over his shoetops.

The following list, page by page, shows the source from which each picture in this issue was gathered. Where a single page is indebted to several sources credit is recorded picture by picture (left to right, top to bottom), and line by line (lines separated by dashes) unless otherwise specified.

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- 2—OTTO HAGEL
- 6—GEORGE STROCK
- 11—PASCHKOFF from P. I.
- 16—ROBERT M. DAMORA
- 17—U. & U.
- 19—PICTORIAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
- 25—W. W. CABLEPHOTO
- 26, 27—Map by TOBIAS MOSS & FRANK STOCKMAN
- 28—A. P., A. P. RADIOPHOTO—A. P., INTERPHOTO RADIOPHOTO—INT. RADIOPHOTO, W. W. CABLEPHOTO
- 29—W. W.
- 30—I. KITROSSER—ACME, P. I.—ACME—H. & E., WALT SANDERS from B. S.
- 31—WALT SANDERS from B. S.
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- 36, 37—WILDING PICTURE PRODUCTIONS, INC.
- 43, 44—ERIC SCHAAL-PIX
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- 49, 50, 53—PHILIP REISMAN
- 54—Photographs by ELECTRON MICROSCOPE, RCA LABORATORIES; SPECIMEN courtesy DR. STUART MUDD, DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA—GORO from B. S.
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- 77—THE T. F. HEALY COLLECTION—THE LONDON TIMES, EDWIN LEVICK—drawings by MICHAEL PHILLIPS & TOBIAS MOSS (2), ACME
- 78—H. & E., T. F. HEALY COLLECTION, H. & E.—T. F. HEALY COLLECTION (2), CULVER—CULVER, T. F. HEALY COLLECTION
- 79—NORMAN HOWARD SPHERE—courtesy IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM—courtesy U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, INT.
- 80, 81—drawing by B. G. SEIELSTAD—P. I.—W. W., A. P.
- 82, 83—OFFICIAL PHOTO U. S. NAVY, drawing by B. G. SEIELSTAD—bot. lt. W. W.
- 84, 85—T. KAUTZKY
- 86, 87, 88—EUR.
- 90—A. P.
- 92, 93—P. I.; from "DIE DEUTSCHE KRIEGSMARINE" published by BREIT KOPF & HÄRTEL, LEIPZIG; GLOBE
- 94—PRESS TOPICS
- 96—W. W.
- 98—CARSWELL-PIX
- 100, 101, 102, 105—MORSE-PIX
- 106, 107—ERIC SCHAAL-PIX
- 108—T. BOSTON HERALD
- 110—WEISSNER STUDIO

ABBREVIATIONS: BOT., BOTTOM; CEN., CENTER; LT., LEFT; RT., RIGHT; T., TOP; A. P., ASSOCIATED PRESS; B. S., BLACK STAR; EUR., EUROPEAN; H. & E. HARRIS & EWING; INT., INTERNATIONAL; P. I., PICTURES INC.; U. & U., UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD; W. W., WIDWORLD

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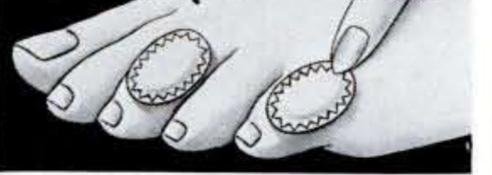
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ate anew the foundations which are necessary to restore law and justice, which will make it possible to trust a German treaty again. Stop the useless bloodshed and Germany will obtain peace with honor, and will thus preserve her unity.

I have been pressed for an explanation of the reasons that prompted me to leave Germany. I have not spoken as yet. All the documents out of a struggle of more than 15 years are kept secret. I do not intend, at a time when my Fatherland is struggling so hard, to furnish the enemy with moral weapons. I am, and always shall be, German with all my heart, with all my thoughts and endeavors. I profess proudly and loudly my German nationality and shall continue to do so to my last breath. Because I am German, I neither desire nor do I have the right to speak at this moment of deepest national distress. Some day this will become necessary and justifiable for the sake of truth. Listen to me and you will hear the voice of the tormented German nation that is crying out to you: "Turn back, let freedom, right and humaneness rise again in the German Reich."

I shall keep silent. I shall wait to see what you are going to do. I demand that this letter shall not be kept from the German people. I am waiting. Should the German nation, however, be prevented from hearing my words, which are the words of a free and upright German, then I shall call upon the conscience of the world, and shall let the world pass judgment. I am waiting.

Heil Germany!
FRITZ THYSSEN

P. S. I am going to hand this letter over to the German Legation at Berne to forward it to you. I am also sending a copy by registered mail to the Chancellery of the Reich at Berlin and another copy to your personal address at Obersalzberg, near Berchtesgaden. I am compelled to take such measures, because it has been officially stated that my letters and telegrams addressed to Field Marshal Göring never reached him.

Copies will be received also by: Field Marshal Göring and Government President Reeder of Düsseldorf, who decreed that my property be confiscated. Baron Kurt von Schröder of Cologne, allegedly the present administrator of my property, will receive a copy of the first paragraphs of this letter.

About five weeks later, the German papers announced the de-nationalization of Fritz Thyssen and his wife. A warrant for their arrest was advertised at the same time. Thyssen protested in the following letter:

To the Reichsminister of the Interior, Dr. Frick, Berlin

Locarno, Feb. 16, 1940
My dear Reichsminister,
As I learn from the newspapers, you have decreed in your official capacity that my wife and myself are divested of our German nationality, effective as of Feb. 4.

Against this announcement I lodge herewith formal protest. In my capacity as a member of the Reichstag, I have dutifully opposed the war policy of the Reich's Government. I left Germany because the immunity granted to the Reichstag by the Constitution did not seem to be safeguarded any more. Neither the confiscation of my property, nor the warrant issued for my arrest, nor my expatriation will keep me from fulfilling my obligations as a member of the Reichstag; as such I feel that I have to account to no one but to the German nation.

Please accept, dear Reichsminister, the expression of my highest esteem,
FRITZ THYSSEN
Member of the German Reichstag

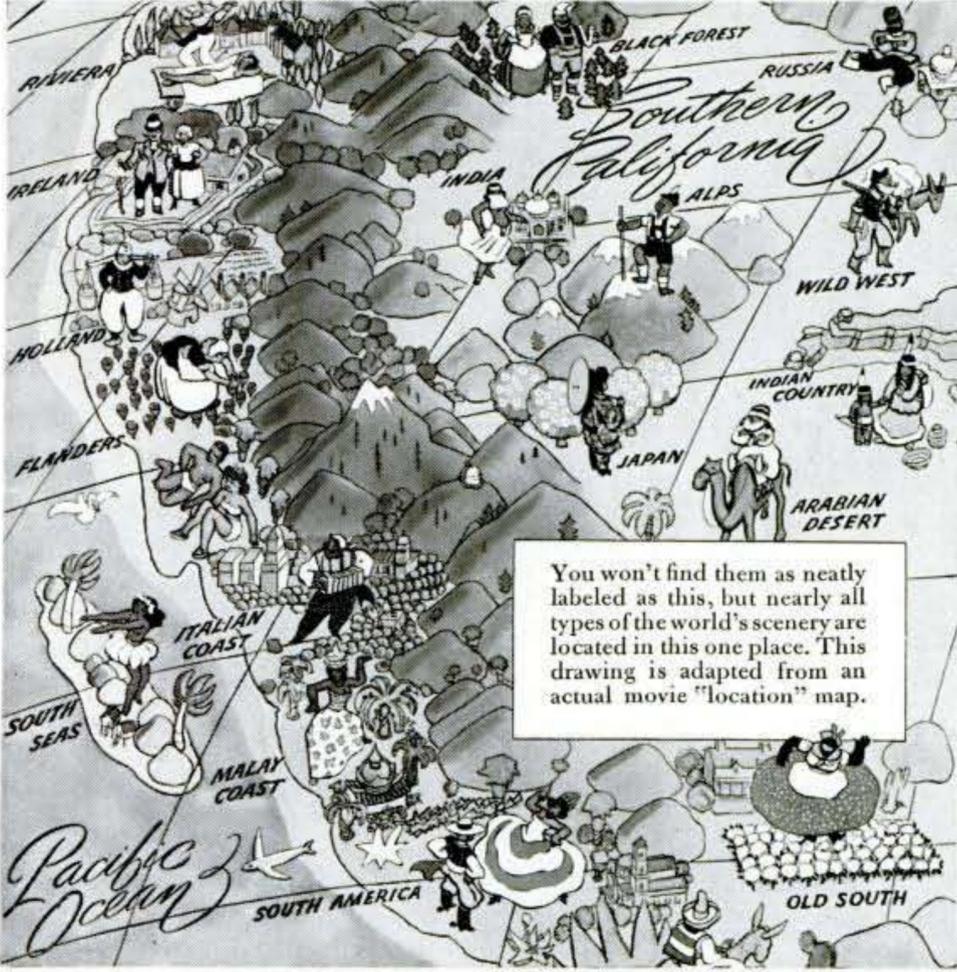
Fritz Thyssen never received an acknowledgment of his letter to the Führer, unless the warrant for his arrest be regarded as such. While he was in Switzerland, it was his duty as a political refugee to refrain from any political activity. He is now in Paris, on his way to join his daughter in the Argentine. He has regained his liberty of speech, and he is using it.

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