FRITZ THYSEN'S LETTERS

On this and ensuing pages, LIFE presents a series of heretofore unpublished letters from Fritz Thyssen, No. 1 German banker of the Nazi party and currently No. 1 German exile, addressed to Hitler, Göring and other Nazi leaders.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 far beyond their obvious value as pure news. In the first place they constitute an astonishing revelation of thecleavage 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 mistakes of supposing that he can safely buck 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 Wilhelmian 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 ore and to secure its 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 assured the remaining independent steel and iron industries of defeated Germany from utter deconstruction. Unlike Hugo Stinnes, he was not an idealist. He did not lay up forlorn and tottering steel and iron works at fantastic 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 leadership were backed by 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 acquisitive, French justice can rightly be as proud as Fritz Thyssen himself. Single-handed he had defeated the French annihilationists and single-handed 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 Mischkonservativen 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-made 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 realized today that trying to save Germany from the tides of Communism, he only helped push her into the fire of Nationalism.

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-accumulated property. It was the office of this very Baron von Schröder that he, Fritz Thyssen, Adolf Hitler, Erwin 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 impotence.

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...
FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS (cont.)

war which they could not possibly win. The author of that plea was Dr. Mischdhof, a partner of Krupp. He had to resign his partnership, but retained otherwise undisturbed. 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 plea for Germany will be borne out as fully as were the appeasements of Dr. Mischdhof of Krupp's—EDV.

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 its National Socialist government into the 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 German invaded Poland, Fritz Thyssen happened to be in Pabst Brauerei in Coldberg. On the evening of Aug. 11, he sent the following urgent telegram to Field Marshal Goring:

"Received order from Goebbels (Dist. Lublin) to keep ready for airplane flight to Berlin. I cannot comply with this order because not an unnecessary horrors of death. In my view a kind of autocracy ought to be possible to gain time for negotiations. I am resigning the war. I will make Germany dependent on Russia also in the matter of raw materials and thereby she will lose her position as a world power.

Guenther. 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. When the US and Britain did not follow, there was sent on Sept. 21, 1940, the following message to Goring: (Memorandum by Fritz Thyssen, Member of the Reichstag, dispatched by messenger to Field Marshal Goring)

1) On Aug. 31, at 9 a.m., I sent the following urgent telegram to Field Marshal Goring, with the order to Goring:

2) On Sept. 1, Mr. Hitler said during the session of the Reichstag: "After the war, Germany will be the only one who is not out of the door and will be retraced as such."

3) I cannot consider only a threat, but also a violation of my constitutional rights as a member of the Reichstag.

4) I am only retired. I am called to express my views, particularly when I am convinced that Germany is being led into a war that will be disastrous to Germany.

5) I am not being asked to resign, but I still have the right to demand that Germany be led into a war that will be disastrous to Germany.

6) Now as before, I am against the war. At 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 consequences for Germany.

7) It is not permitted that the peace talks be with Germany, that part to which Mr. Hitler himself repeatedly referred as a guarantee of peace in the future. In this respect I refer also to the last communication of the Reichstag on Sept. 26, 1939.

8) In order to achieve peace, it will be necessary for Germany to accept conditions which conform in every respect to the Constitution. Where the Constitution is not respected, there will be no negotiations.

9) The oath of allegiance taken by the individual is valid only if also the leaders live up to their oath.

10) In the meeting of the Reichstag on Sept. 3, approximately 100 members were absent. Their votes were taken by party officials. This I consider a
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, gizoo look. Kreml isn't greasy, keeps hair neat and natural looking.

DONT QUIT to the other extreme and plaster your hair with greasy goo and give it a patent leather, gizoo 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 dandruff scales and relieves itching scalp.

DONT QUIT to the other extreme and plaster your hair with greasy goo and give it a patent leather, gizoo look. Kreml isn't greasy, keeps hair neat and natural looking.

FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS

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.

STOCKINETTE: The plant Lance officinarum is a silicious, non-skid—thanks to thousands of suction-like caps shown in microphotograph.

INSIDE: The plant Lance officinarum is a silicious, non-skid—thanks to thousands of suction-like caps shown in microphotograph.

OUTSIDE: The plant Lance officinarum is a silicious, non-skid—thanks to thousands of suction-like caps shown in microphotograph.

NOSTALGIA... It's back completely with Kreml, comfortable Stockinette—no absorbent gray hands ever remain dirty.

A Selected RED-SEAL VALUE

The SEAMLESS RUBBER Company
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
Specialists in Fine Rubber Goods for 65 Years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33
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 washday 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 soaps... 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.

THYSSEN LUNCHEONS WITH WIFE AT LOCARNO HOTEL, SWITZERLAND

FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS

(continued from page 14)

of your wishes, and of those of Mr. Hill, for the State Police District of Düsseldorf.

In November and December, the State Police District of Düsseldorf received an order from the Field Marshal General Göring to Mr. Terboven, District Leader, President in Chief and Commissioner of the Reichslege, Defense Unit 4, the total property of Fritz Thysen, Dr. jur. hon. etc., Mülheim-Ruhr, Speldorf, is confiscated by the State Police according to section 1 of the Law concerning the seizure of the State Police. It is Mr. Terboven, Commissioner of the Reichslege, Defense, District Leader and President in Chief, who, with the consent of Mr. Field Marshal General Göring, who is exclusively authorized to dispose of the property, does not have the necessary authority to displace the possession of the property of Fritz Thysen, Dr. jur. etc., or 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. Haselbach, Governor of the Reich, Chief Counsel, or his substitute in the Office, all accounts, deposits and safe deposits in their names of either Fritz Thysen, Dr. jur. etc., or his wife. And I request that all banks be instructed by a confidential letter to report without delay and within five days to the State Police at Düsseldorf, attention of Dr. Haselbach, Governor of the Reich, Chief Counsel, or his substitute in the Office, all accounts, deposits and safe deposits in their names of either Fritz Thysen, Dr. jur. etc., or his wife.

HEIL! HEIL! Heil Hitler! The Director of the Economy Group of the German Republican Bank, FRIEDRICH REINHARDT, Director of the Chambers of Industry, Commerce, and Public Banking, Portable Bank, Berlin.
The Newfoundland comes to your aid in mixing summer drinks

May 31, 1883 (see No. 290), and the law of July 14, 1883, regarding the seizure of property of individuals hostile to the Prussian government by the state (Legislature, Issue 1, p. 479) the entire movable property of Dr. Fritz Thyssen, formerly of Malmö, 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.

Dresden, Dec. 11, 1939

The Government President, Reviser.

Any justification of this measure in lacking. I state here with that no court or administrative procedure whatever 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. Vögtle, by order of the District Leader of Essen, handed over to me. In that statement I was asked to withdraw a political memoranda 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 disclosed 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 undetermined 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 Reichstag as well as all persons aiding in this confiscation now or in the future, among them particularly, Haen von Schleicher, Co-logy, the appointed Trustee, as personally responsible to me. The time will come when my rights will be unprecedentedly protected. I especially warn against any interference with my wife's property, or that of my children, the Count and Countin Zähny. I protest most vigorously against any violation of the estate of my father, the great 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 1933 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 Chancellery 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 oath.

In the course of time, however, a disastrous change took place. At an early stage already I felt it necessary to oppose my protest against the pernicious of Christianity, against the legalization of its priests, against the destruction of its churches.

When on Nov. 9, 1938, the Jews were robbed and tortured and 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 renunciation, I resigned my position of State Councilor. All my protestations obtained no reply and no remedy.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
FRITZ THYSSEN'S LETTERS (Continued)

Now you have concluded a pact with Communism. Your Propaganda Minis-
tery even dares to state that the good Germans who voted for the pro-
fessed opponent of Communism, are, in essence, identical with those beastly an-
ti-Jews who have plunged Russia into tragedy, and who were described by
you yourself as "bloodstained common criminals" (Mein Kampf, p. 239).

When the greatest of all disasters oc-
curred, when Germany was once more
plunged into a war, without the consent
of her Parliament or the State Council,
I declared emphatically my disapproval.
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 in this par-
ticularly its parliamentary representa-
tive, 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 re-
fuse to cover your crimes with my name.
Even though you dictated in the Reichs-
tag 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
by you. Let us refuse to condone this war
into which the German nation has been
plunged so frivolously, and for the hor-
rors of which you and your adversaries
will be held responsible. Against the acu-
smal attack on a traitor, I term it protected
by my past. It is just this adhesion 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 pro-
nounced the ultimate goal of the move-
ment. It was to lead back to the monar-
chical. "Leadership of the German
and monarch," you said, "are essen-
tially identical." Social justice, social
armament was to lead to a totalitarian
gold state. May I remind you that
with such objects in mind, you charged
me to erect at Dusseldorf the Institute
of the Guards, though, one year later,
you deserted the idea and yourself.
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 said that Dachau where my nephew
had died suddenly. Of the estate. Fuehler
near Salzburg, you made a present to
Mr. von Ribbentrop, who was brozen
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. Gör-
zen 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.

I see pages 79-72 in your book Mein
Kampf.

Your present policy amounts to
delusion. Its beneficiary will be your
arch-enemy of yesterday, who is your "friend of
today"—unless the villain Fins
with their trust in God disappoint all
my sincerest expectations. Your new ally
is still the same Russia of which your
immediate adviser, Mr. Regener, 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 in-
mate, Stalin.

Your new policy, Mr. Hitler, is driv-
ing 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 political
Union. Think of the oath you swore in Po-
dom. Set back to the Reichstag, there;
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 109-110, is
one of the youngest of the photographers who regularly take pictures
for LIFE. Now 22, he studied at C. C. N. Y. and has 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 an
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 indicated
to several sources credit is recorded by picture (left in right, top to bottom),
and line by line (separated by double) unless otherwise specified.

COOKS—MARGARET ROUSE-WHITE
1163 MALMERY
30-32 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

WOLF—WOLF PACK OF THE A. L.
RABBIT HUNTING CLUB
134 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—T. DOLPHIN
505 BAYARD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—M. B. HENDRIX
73 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—W. A. T. TULLAY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
NEW YORK

TURTLE—J. M. T. WESLEY
113 E. 33RD ST.
Why movie stars seldom leave home!

Relax on cool beaches, dip into blue waters, scale the High Sierras, explore Old Spanish Missions, various industries. Enjoy the after-dark nightlife of great world capitals, symphonies, supper clubs, celebrations. Sleep under blankets 9 nights out of 10. Southern California offers the freest kind of summer vacation...a vacation that's really different!

For business: the studio find nearly every type of the city within a short drive of Hollywood.
For pleasure: this same variety of scene means every kind of leisure-time fun. The stars take advantage of it...why not join them this summer?

You won’t find them as nearly labeled as this, but nearly all types of the world’s scenery are located a short drive from here. This drawing is adapted from an actual movie “location” map.