

1113

F.F.I. --- THIS IS THE STORY OF RESISTANCE IN PARIS --- AND
THE GERMANS' LAST DAYS.

The streets of Paris are deserted; outside, our world hears only rumours of what may be happening to something like ~~the~~ four million people of its city and suburbs; inside, those people were pursuing the wretched life of a race kept in custody by its traditional enemy. Their working days were passed ~~at home~~ in fear of sudden death, for loving France too much; ~~or deported to slave labour in Germany~~; or, at the best, in the humiliation of walking their own beloved streets beneath the Black Cross of Prussia.

But Paris was stirring; the world outside heard rumours of mutiny in the Prefecture --- ~~the~~ police headquarters. Somehow, cars unauthorized by the German Military Governor were used at meetings of the civil leaders of resistance in France; --- the F.F.I; the French Forces of the Interior. This newsreel film was shot by a French patriot cameraman who took these pictures at the risk of his life.

The organization of the French Underground movement passed the word that Paris D-Day was near; as the British and Canadians smashed the German Army at Falaise and Caen; as mighty American and French columns of armour swept on towards Versailles and Paris suburbs. The movement was beginning to come out into the open after four years of faith kept alive by a word whispered in the cafés; a nod at the entrance to the Metro; a meeting in a shuttered house. Like magic --- weapons appeared. Under the nose of the Gestapo they had collected enough to arm fifty thousand of their men. And on the secret air from London, came fresh hope with the news that every day the mighty armies of the allies were coming closer: and the eerie

silence of the streets would now sometimes be shattered by the screech of an outlaw car --- in a Paris where you were outlaw if you were Parisian.

Like a monstrous beetle from a dark hole in Berlin, this thing marched into the street --- the symbol of Nazi power. But Nazi power was in its twilight --- on the world's battlefields outside Paris their beetles were being squashed; Parisians revolted. And the uncanny silences were broken again and again with the whistle of sudden death. ~~X~~ Now the Hun --- was the outlaw. ~~/~~

The Paris Resistance men broke ~~out~~ from behind the barricades and ran out into the reconquered streets of Paris; the news was flashed ~~to the outside world~~ that Paris had been liberated. The Germans who for four years had bullied and plundered the capital of France were rounded up like the common criminals they are. ~~/~~ But as we know --- the victory was not quite complete. They granted the Germans a kind of armistice --- which the Germans used to consolidate for a new battle. Later with the help of the Allied armies, the Germans were all killed, captured or driven out.

That is how Paris overthrew the conquerors of 1940; how the swastikas that flew in the streets were replaced once more by the Tricolour and the flags of the United Nations. ~~/~~ ~~Now~~ Paris was able to welcome at last the return of her soldiers from exile, under their leader General de Gaulle. Gaumont British News has already shown in full the story of the triumphant march down the Champs Elysee. We repeat in this issue a shorter, ~~and~~ version of that day of triumph and tragedy. ~~/~~

~~These were soldiers of the British Empire here in Paris.~~

~~And down that broad avenue between crowds of cheering~~

~~Parisians, Frenchmen walk again.~~

~~It was~~ From these buildings, not long ago,
you saw the swastika fly!

It was while General de Gaulle was in the Hotel de Ville and the Cathedral of Notre Dame that German and Fascist snipers opened fire ~~on him and on the crowd in the street.~~

This ugly outburst ^{So} typical of German bloodlust, was quelled. And Paris was part of France again: ~~the allied armies march on to Germany.~~ Let us praise the men of our armed forces who bought this victory with their lives; and the leaders whose wisdom and courage made it possible.