

CITY OF BUILDERS

Warsaw, left by the Nazis as a dusty memorial to wholesale destruction, appeared as a trodden ants nest to the returning Poles. But, like ants, they returned! Even the Polish Government contemplated moving the capital to Lodz, but its people thought differently. Rebuilding began immediately.

From the rubble itself, the people found the materials to re-create the city. Among themselves, they found the inspiration and the will to work. Everybody got down to the job. Building became the national pastime.

The office worker took his place alongside the housewife. Soldiers on leave followed the example of Poland's Prime Minister and rolled their sleeves up. There were no distractions, no amusements, and no food rationing. Food provided both the incentive to effort and the strength for accomplishment.

House by house, street by street, the city rises with incredible speed. As far as possible the buildings are rebuilt along their original lines. Memory plays a great part where plans are gone and foundations are unrecognizable. The artist with a memory becomes the architect.

There is no priority about the buildings. Shops, houses, churches and cinemas go up in any order. Oddly enough, half the work is done by private enterprise. Even more amazing is the fact that nothing is temporary. There are no utility standards and no prefabs! Warsaw, home of an eternally resurgent people, sets an example to builders the world over.