

Nazi cruelty in France recorded

By **CARLETON KENT**

(North American Newspaper Alliance)

(Allied censors delayed transmission of the following dispatch apparently to verify the German atrocities therein reported. Carleton Kent, an experienced foreign correspondent who has covered both the Pacific and European theaters of war, says he is convinced of the reliability of his informants.—Ed.)

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES IN SOUTH FRANCE, Aug. 26.—(Delayed by Censor)—A colonel of the French army, and a leader of the Maquis in south France, vouches for the accuracy of the following list of atrocities committed by the Germans in France shortly before her liberation by Allied armies. He said that as late as Aug. 12 "the Germans kept on with their brutality until the last minute. Then they surrendered to the Americans who they knew would treat them well. It was very convenient for them."

He then gave details of a long, repulsive list of murders and atrocities which he said the Germans were still dealing the populace as punishment for Maquis activity.

I wrote down many of these shocking items, having in mind that in five years of war and knowing they face certain defeat now, as most of the prisoners are ready to admit, these Germans haven't changed their stupid methods of trying to rule a conquered people. The colonel illustrated with photographs some of his stories.

On July 20 at Vassieux en Vercors German glider troops landed on a strip the Maquis was building in the hills for the Allies. They burned the town of 800 population to the ground and killed 180 inhabitants, including men, women and children.

At the hamlet of Lamure they killed an unknown number of men and partially burned some of the bodies in an oven. We were shown photos of this charming scene.

In Forest de Lente, the only virgin forest left in France, Maquis found many bodies with throats cut and men hanged so that their feet still touched the ground in order to make death slower. At Voreppe some were hanged by butcher's hooks under the chin, and civilians were forced by the Germans to stand in front of these slowly dying impaled victims and watch their death struggles.

At Vassieux la Mure two men were hanged after their eyes and tongues had been cut out.

On July 27 Germans, led by SS officers, entered a village where French doctors and nurses were caring for 40 wounded, including four Poles from the German army.

Those unable to walk were carried a few feet away and shot. The remainder—except the four captured Poles who, the colonel said, immediately joined the punitive party—were marched to Roussets and beaten to death. The colonel said this was recounted to him by one of the nurses, the only one who escaped being taken to Germany with the rest of the medical staff.

The village priest at Saint Valier told the colonel of seeing two boys, aged about 8 and 12, nailed by their hands to a barn door and then shot.

Jean Prevost, a French author well known in the United States who was a captain of the Maquis, and Lt. Julien Dubreuil, playwright and liaison officer with the British, were captured and shot trying to escape from Vercor after the battle. The colonel said their bodies were mutilated but it was not known whether before or after death.

The colonel's list was long, very long. He and his men, who fought and then hid in Vercor, eating a potato every second day and licking leaves or squeezing moss in lieu of drinking water and knowing they'd be tortured and killed if they were caught, are a little bitter when they watch American soldiers handing around cigarets and coffee to German soldiers who hounded the Maquis so long.