

PSYCHOLOGY

# Intelligent Understanding Best for Fighting Spirit

## Democracies Have Advantage of Dictatorships Because We Can Permit The Highest Development of Character

**D**EMOCRATIC nations can beat the Nazis at developing a victorious fighting spirit, because only in the freedom of democracies can soldiers, sailors and airmen understand what they are doing and feel themselves an intelligent part of the national effort.

In addition to this greatest hope of superiority, the democracies can and do use all the tricks of the dictators in building up military morale, Dr. R. A. Brotemarkle, professor of psychology and personnel officer of the University of Pennsylvania, has reported to the American Academy of Political and Social Science through its current *Annals*. (Reviewed, *SNL*, this week.)

Here is how the U. S. A. and other democracies can surpass the dictatorships in using all the resources of the "whole man" in all-out defense:

Democracies can afford frank discussion of uncensored facts with any soldier, giving him an understanding that permits him to follow his orders intelligently. Blind obedience can never produce the effective action that is obtained by understanding, willing cooperation in a united effort.

Democracies can help each individual soldier to adapt himself to the ever-changing conditions of modern warfare by making available to him frank counseling on personal problems by special officers.

Democracies can build up the individual's self-respect by making him feel that he is an important part of his nation's defense as an intelligently cooperating and willingly participating free citizen.

In addition, Dr. Brotemarkle emphasizes, we can also use all the devices of the dictators:

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can give men a feeling of security and safety by providing them with efficient equipment—adequate clothing, housing, arms and good food.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can instill into soldiers the fine traditions of manliness and courage in

a well-respected fighting organization.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can make soldiers feel that they "belong" among their fellows in the Army and permit them to take part in exclusive ceremonies and rituals.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can teach their soldiers team work through games and sports and can get them used to their duties through extensive drills and war games.

Democracies, as well as dictatorships, can use words to build morale — by teaching legends of military life and military heroes, by emotional appeals and exhortations, by propaganda and by military regulations.

Hitler dares not go beyond these tricks.

*Science News Letter, August 16, 1941*

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## Develops Instrument for Measuring National Morale

**G**UESSING about national morale, vital defense against the thrusts of modern psychological warfare, is no longer necessary. An instrument has been invented for measuring it.

This thermometer for measuring the rising and falling spirits of the people of America consists of a group of questions which might be asked of a carefully selected sample of the whole population just as successful pre-election polls are conducted. Here are some of the questions as reported by Dr. Delbert C. Miller, of the State College of Washington. (*American Sociological Review*, August.)

1. No matter what happens in this war, democracy will collapse sooner or later.

2. Every able-bodied single man who calls himself an American should volunteer now for military service.

3. The military strength of the United States could be assembled in time to give Britain enough aid to defeat Hitler.

4. There are too many old men trying to run the Army and Navy.

5. No matter how much damage Germany does, sooner or later Britain will defeat Hitler.

6. Whites treat the Negro in the United States worse than Germany treats the conquered peoples of Europe.

If your own morale is high, you should have answered yes to statements 2, 3, and 5. You should have said no to 1, 4, and 6.

The morale measure has already been tried out in a longer preliminary form on 200 students at the State College of Washington.

These young people, it was revealed, are optimistic. They have a belief in democracy both as an ideal and as a practical working form of government.

However, peace propaganda of the

