



**HARBOR PROTECTION** — By opening special valves, 146 caissons like the one in this British photograph (above), were sunk into position in the channel for the Normandy invasion. Anti-aircraft guns were placed on the top of most caissons as additional protection of the harbor. These ambulances (left), bring the wounded right up to hospital ships tied at the LST pier head at the British prefabricated harbor on the coast of Normandy.

“In a democracy the opposition has an important part to play,” he pointed out. “A democracy conscious of its own ideals should be able to eradicate psychological imbalance of this kind.”

*Science News Letter, November 4, 1944*

**ORDNANCE**

**Extensible Smallarms Stocks Invented at Arsenal**

➤ AN EXTENSIBLE stock for submachine guns and other small arms is covered by patent 2,360,881, obtained by John L. Lochhead, civilian employe of the great arsenal at Springfield, Mass. Patent rights are assigned, royalty-free, to the government. The stock, with its shoulder rest, consists of a pair of parallel rods or bars that slide snugly forward under the weapon when in the collapsed condition, instead of folding around to the side as in weapons of existing design.

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**PSYCHOLOGY**

**How To Handle Traitors**

An escaped Dutch Army Medical Officer warns that any idea of segregating them is folly. This would only breed a pure culture of hatred.

➤ ANY IDEA the Allied and liberated nations may have of rounding up and sending to concentration camps the traitors who helped in the Nazi conquest would be a mistake, in the opinion of Dr. A. M. Meerloo, major in the Royal Netherlands Army.

Maj. Meerloo, a psychologist, apparently had plenty of time between the Nazi occupation of Holland and his own escape to study treason among his unfortunate compatriots. Suggestions for postwar handling of traitors gleaned from this study and reported by Maj. Meerloo to the British Psychological Association now appear in the *Lancet* (Sept. 2), medical journal published in London.

“It would be folly to segregate traitors together,” he said. “That would be to breed a pure culture of hatred.”

He explained this by pointing out that “some people can only conquer their sense of inferiority by a persistent attitude of dissatisfaction. They prefer the secrecy of clique and schism to productive work with the community.”

In the course of his practice Maj. Meerloo came across several people who later became traitors. These people could

not have been called wicked, he said. They were rather of the type that is easily influenced by current ideas and theories. Those who tried to intimidate him with their fascism were never strong characters. They were instead those who were disappointed with life, “the frustrated who transferred their feelings to political phantoms.”

Just as the hypnotic force of fascism strengthened the fascist tendencies of men, so Maj. Meerloo sees hope that a similar hypnotic force in the way of mass suggestion toward good may neutralize traitors.

Pointing out that a sense of guilt is one of the most fertile sources of betrayal, injustice leading to hatred of the victim and then to further injustice, Maj. Meerloo warned that “our own guilt may cause us to forgive” the traitors too easily.

Letting a man persist in his personal discontent and resentment against society is dangerous. The way to remedy such antisocial feeling, Maj. Meerloo suggested, is to allow each man freedom to criticize and to create in him a sense of responsibility for his views.