

Atrocity Pictures

May, 1945 *Victory Edition*

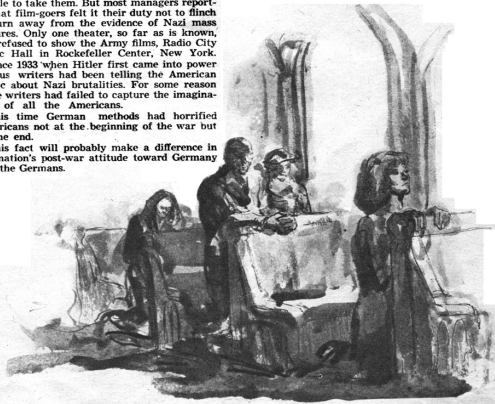
THROUGHOUT the country first-run movie houses showed films of a kind seldom if ever seen by American audiences. The films, made for the most part by the U.S. Army Signal Corps, showed piles of human bones, mass graves and beaten, starving men who looked more like corpses than human beings. The scenes were German prison camps—Buchenwald, Hadamar, Ohrdruf and Nordhausen.

In all the cities the reaction of movie-goers was apparently the same. Homefronters sat in shocked silence, broken now and then by low gasps. In a few theaters some women walked out before the prison scenes were finished, evidently unable to take them. But most managers reported that film-goers felt it their duty not to flinch or turn away from the evidence of Nazi mass tortures. Only one theater, so far as is known, has refused to show the Army films, Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center, New York.

Since 1933 when Hitler first came into power serious writers had been telling the American public about Nazi brutalities. For some reason these writers had failed to capture the imagination of all the Americans.

This time German methods had horrified Americans not at the beginning of the war but at the end.

This fact will probably make a difference in the nation's post-war attitude toward Germany and the Germans.



Thousands of Americans greeted the victory announcement quietly and prayerfully, in the churches.