

GERMANY IN THE DUST%

The first herald of peace came to Northern Italy. Bologna, historic university city of 300,000 people, went wild with joy when its long delayed liberation was accomplished and the Germans driven out. The people sensed that the hour of complete German defeat in Italy was at hand. They were right. It was the Germans in Italy who first made unconditional surrender.

Holding together an army representing many Allied nations Field Marshal Alexander won a tremendous victory. ^{At} ~~IN~~ the Caserta Palace, near Naples two German officers in civilian clothing arrived with powers to capitulate unconditionally. Alexander's Chief of Staff, General Morgan read the terms. There was no bargaining. All along we have hammered home those two uncompromising words, unconditional surrender, and the moment had now come for the Germans to sign on the dotted line. The document disarmed an enemy host a million strong, the biggest surrenderer so far in this war.

(22 SV Morgan) The great event was witnessed by two officers of the Red Army. Yet great as was this occasion it was dwarfed by what so very soon happened in Germany.

Thus ends ~~the~~ bid for world-power of Hitler and his iniquitous associates. *followers.*

Himmler survived the first blood-bath and Admiral Doenitz claimed that he spoke for the German nation when Hitler was removed from the stage.

But Upon the German people who all along backed the Nazi gang to the limit falls the responsibility for casting nine-tenths of the world into the abyss of total war.

From the days of the brown-shirts to the death of Berlin the Hitler story makes the foulest chapter of all modern history. ~~Hitler himself was a paranoiac, hopelessly unbalanced, but only by a sadistic, greedy people themselves could he and the murder gang of have~~ ~~ascended to supreme power.~~

When the senile Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor few outside Germany knew that that great country had passed into the control of a criminal lunatic.

There was a torch-light procession through Berlin. The brown-shirts realised they were no longer down-at-heel unemployed; they were in power, the plunder was theirs; the era of lust, robbery and unbridled vengeance had begun. There was a great burning of books, for books mean ^{reason} ~~reading~~ and in Germany the age of ^{reason} ~~reading~~ was dead. They staged the Reichstag fire, pretext for anti-Jew, anti-Communist purges. ~~They~~ ~~and~~ ~~mass~~ ~~murder~~ ~~were~~ ~~the~~ ~~rule~~ ~~from~~ ~~then~~ ~~on~~.

Religion was persecuted if it refused to toe the Nazi line. And all the time the people of Germany acquiesced. Teachers were persecuted unless they too would preach the Nazi creed. And all the time the people acquiesced.

In those early days the brown-shirts - leaders and rank and file - revelled in the novelty of power. They knew just how they were going to use it.

(60 after CY Hitler) Then began the corruption of the young. The rising generation was poisoned by the Hitler Youth Movement. ~~Boys and girls were turned against their parents, taught that Hitler was a God, taught that the world future belonged to Germany by right~~

Hitler's first gamble was to reoccupy the Rhine zone, forbidden to German troops after the last war. It was bluff, for his army had no power, and we could have stopped him then. But our lips were sealed, our heads in the sand, we preferred to appease. Goering created the Luftwaffe, and soon there was no bluff about the German forces. Hitler was in a position to blackmail the whole of timid Europe. The German people now saw themselves as masters of the earth.

(79 drums) Now came the bloodless conquests, first of Austria, then of Czechoslovakia. Germany was now on top of the world. The whole nation was mad with lust of power.

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And it all came to this. Millions of Germans dead. The German armed forces utterly routed, Germany itself a morale, economic and a physical ruin.

(prisoners) Unconditional surrender is the fate of these once all powerful armed forces.

The United Nations are victorious. The seed was sown in the battle of Britain, so many long years ago.... It was sown at Stalingrad, turning point of the war, where Russia tore out the vitals of the German army.... The plant of ~~XXXXXX~~ triumph was further nourished by the desert victory. From that time on nothing could have saved Germany.

At last came D-Day - ~~incidentally~~ another invaluable contribution by the Royal Navy ^{and R.A.F.} On all fronts the Allies were now marching irresistibly towards triumph. Paris was liberated. From their dream city the Germans had run away, almost without firing a shot.

Then, best of all, we crossed the Rhine and it was all but in the bag.

The chiefs of the Allied armed forces waited long for their hour of triumph, but it was triumph beyond measure when it came.

At this tremendous hour there is only one regret, that one of the grand architects of victory is no longer here. His spirit is with us. He knows that the victory is won.