



AS WE SEE IT

By DAN PATRICK

This has been a week of stupendous events and petty politics.

Apparently timed to coincide with the forthcoming Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference, the roaring Russian offensive has exploded from one end of the eastern front to the other with a violence and power unparalleled in the bloody history of warfare.

This Russian offensive is important for many military and diplomatic reasons. In the mere optimistic, it presages an early collapse of Germany. To give the most conservative, it represents a long step forward toward the ultimate victory of the United Nations.

Berlin itself seems to be the focal point of the offensive and we are meeting the task in the street who rubs his hands in gory anticipation of what will happen when the Red Army breaches the defenses of the German capital.

We think Hanson W. Baldwin, military analyst of the New York Times gives the best summary of the situation in this conclusion:

"The campaign in the east now has been fully joined from the Baltic to the mountains of Yugoslavia. The Russians have won great initial successes and it is premature to judge their effects, but the parallel in the operations and the outcome of the French and Russian campaign last summer should be clearly borne in mind."

Nevertheless there is not much doubt that the Germans face the greatest crisis of the war and their armies must stand or die. They can no longer trade space for time; that strategy has at long last brought the Russians close to the gates of Berlin."

As much for the military situation. Above and beyond that are the tremendous political implications which now hang in the air, the strength of the forces which bend the United Nations.

Here are some questions which cry to the high heavens for answers:

What about the fate of American, British and other Allied prisoners of the Nazis who fall into Russian hands in the course of the advance?

What about the types of provisional governments to be set up in the liberated areas?

Will Communism get a running start over democracy?

How will the Russian Army treat the German civilian population?

What about the status of the Catholic Church and as a matter of fact all religions in the liberated areas?

The world — and America in particular — will look for the answers to these questions not in high-sounding statements emanating from an international conference but in the deeds of the Russian army and its government.

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If — through these deeds — the Soviets give us an answer which will bring all fear and suspicion, the cause for unity among the United Nations will receive mighty impetus and the hopes for an equitable peace in tomorrow's world will rise to great heights.

It is not for us to pass premature judgment on the Russians. Let us wait and see and hope and pray that their actions in modern Europe will bring us into the valley of peace and brotherhood and despair.

The past week saw another one of those historic Churchill speeches to Congress.

It was replete with news which Americans apparently cannot obtain from their own government.

Most important items covered perhaps were Churchill's renunciation of an agreement with Stalin as a policy for the Balkans, his reaffirmation of the "unconditional surrender" policy of Churchill and his statement that the principles of the Atlantic Charter, while still valid, cannot be reached hastily.

His viewpoint on unconditional surrender is interesting and subject to minute examination at another time. We must agree with one of his concluding statements delivered in the full flush of the victory for which he is so justly famed:

"We Allies are no monsters but faithful men, trying to carry forward the light of the world, trying to raise from bloody water and confusion in which mankind is now plunged, the structure of peace, of freedom, of justice and of law — which system shall be an abiding and lasting shelter of last for all."

To that, we add a fervent "Amen."

It is quite a change from the holy Mass of the church to the political intrigue of the President by looking at the steadily increasing contrast between the two positions of the United States.

Why do we question the position of the United States? The question is whether its actions and its actions. Whether it does it or not it stands forth as the strongest of all nations by its own actions.

As the new Secretary of Commerce, played with leading American industry along the high road to victory and democracy over the resistance of internationalism and also gave a man who is a man of internationalism, peace, and justice, a man of internationalism and justice, a man of internationalism and justice.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M.P. MURRAY



The Literary Conclude

Meet Sheila Daly

By John O'Connor

It is hard to examine the ruins and tragic statistics regarding the loss of souls without feeling a deep remorse. It is not a matter of mere statistics for our modern system of education. City crime records and juvenile delinquency reports show a constant rise, and in many critical areas or points, a phenomenal one. It is only part of the picture, however, for the breakdown of morality and the loss of souls is the result of a more fundamental cause.

Sheila Daly, a young woman who has written numerous books and articles, has been the subject of a book by John O'Connor. The book is a study of her life and work, and is a tribute to her courage and faith. She is a young woman who has written numerous books and articles, and is a tribute to her courage and faith.

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Library Special

THE LION AND THE LAMB

By Mrs. Maudie Martin

(Retained by Henry A. ...)

In times past were were fought by armed soldiers alone. One of the legions ...

married to a French exile ...

Though the story begins as early as 1909, the descendant though distinctive ...

Here is the story of a young girl who was raised in a French exile ...

I can't imagine anyone who would not find Margaret Vull's narrative a most absorbing adventure ...

Even more than the account of these two ...

This may make you think the book is depressing. It isn't. It would make the impression for our war mothers. Once you meet ...

Some the wisdom, ability, and courage which ...

Mr. Thomas Woodcock is another American ...

His book, The Catholic ...

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