



AS WE SEE IT

By DAN PATRICK

"The German people will only make the rest of their defeat heavier to themselves by attempting to continue a hopeless resistance. . . . It is not our purpose to destroy the people of Germany, but only when Nazis and militarists have been exterminated will there be hope for a decent life for Germans, and a place for them in the country of nations."

Thus spoke the Big Three in their report on the Crimea conference, in a reiteration of the unconditional surrender formula. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin refused to reveal the terms of such surrender. Rather they pointedly said:

"These terms will not be made known until the final defeat of Germany has been accomplished."

History alone will judge the wisdom of this decision. It reverses completely the policy followed by President Wilson in World War I when he dangled his famous fourteen points before the eyes of war-weary Germans and hastened the armistice.

Translated into everyday English, the Big Three told the German people:

"You better get out of the war now while the getting out is good. We won't destroy you as a people but that's the only definite promise we'll make. You surrender unconditionally and then . . . and only then . . . will you learn the price of peace."

It seems to me that one further but vital point must be considered and that is the ability of the German people to surrender.

If the people were able to do this, then all is not lost. It is safe to say that the surrender would have come months ago had they not held in bondage by their Nazi masters so resolutely that only last week Hitler was able to decree death throughout the Reich to those who "shirk their duty."

This war, then, is quite different from 1914. At that time the German generals of the Junkers said, realizing the inevitability of defeat, favored the abdication of the Hohenzollern dynasty and the substitution of a government to deal with the Allies.

In the present instance, the Nazis have stampeded an iron-clad rule on both the military and civilian that it is next to impossible for either group to initiate a movement for surrender. In the final analysis, the Nazis have everything to gain and nothing to lose by holding out as long as possible. Through whatever means of "blood, sweat, toil and tears," the Nazis must travel in ignorance of this policy. They are bound to drag the helpless and innocent German people.

Any word spoken relative to the plight of the German people at the present time is generally misconstrued as the voice of appeasement and a negotiated peace. In our case we want to put in a denial in anticipation of such a charge.

We do not for one moment feel that the German people are guiltless in this struggle. It was their lack of vision which enabled the Nazis to throttle Germany. They stood by like blind fools and cheered as Hitler took over and planted the seeds for the great world conflict.

But the German people were not alone in their blindness. France stood by and so did England. Their do-nothing governments made the Nazis bolder with each successive stroke of power politics from the reoccupation of the Rhineland to Munich. The attempts at Democratic government in Germany during the post-war years proved to be miserable failures because the regiments of the Nazis were always and the added yoke of crushing reparations all but sent them sprawling to the ground to pave the way for the designation of Hitler.

In connection with this very real problem comes a new book by Max Jordan entitled "Beyond All Frontiers" (Garden City, N.Y.: A Division of the Mutual Publishing Company). Mr. Jordan has done enough to say his book and his conclusions are worthy of note.

The Saturday Review of Literature looks with considerable favor on his findings and makes note of Jordan's statement that the German people themselves really were the first to be conquered by Hitler.

On the other hand, the New York Times gives Jordan's appeal for an understanding of the problems of the German people an unqualified hearing, stating that "neither we defend and deplore this nor do we believe the Nazis can be forgiven." The Times characterize Jordan's defense as "long, lucid, and rather banal."

Thus, the Times, in its judgment, presents Jordan's stand as it appeared in the paper for all to see. The Times' attitude is that of a neutral observer, but the paper does not seem to be influenced by such opinions as Hitler's own.

Such a statement is assumed to indicate considerably the further broad implications that Christians as a whole are regarding Germans as a whole of all bad ends.

Finally, students should note that, according to the information of Jordan, that the Nazis are not the only ones who are responsible for the present condition of Germany.

Recent Days

Students, like all Americans, are asked to keep in mind the following points:

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

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