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EDITORIALS

The Passing Show Of '43

THE AXIS PAYS

Germany and Italy are paying an appalling price now for their brutality and treachery as steel wings are dropping all the harrowing destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah over their cities.

Allan A. Michie in the Reader's Digest tells about the bombing of the Reich and Italian cities by British and American air fleets:

Lubeck, Rostock, Emden, Cologne, Wilhelmshaven, Mainz, Karlrushe, Dusseldorf—cities where submarines and airplanes are manufactured—have been pulverized.

The extent of the damage, Mr. Michie says, is colossal. The Germans are trying to keep secret the terrible destruction, but they can't keep it secret from the photographs made by the flyers showing the damage.

It will be remembered that in the Nazi raid of December 29, 1940, on the city of London, the total area of demolished buildings equalled 100 acres.

The stolid English took their medicine, dug out and buried their dead men, women and children, then went to work building more and bigger planes.

Now listen:

On Cologne, the third largest German city, the RAF's concentrated raid poured more than 3000 tons of fire and steel in 90 minutes. More damage was done than the famous fire and earthquake did to San Francisco. Over 2000 buildings were razed and thousands of others made uninhabitable. 200,000 people had to be evacuated. A third of the city was totally destroyed.

At Lubeck, great submarine city, 3000 houses were totally demolished and 42,000 people made homeless.

Rostock is a dead city. More than 6,000 people were killed and wounded, and 40,000 of the city's 115,000 population had to move away. Almost 70 per cent. of the city's acreage was leveled.

At Karlrushe, the town's center was gutted. Nearly 260 acres were razed of buildings.

At Dusseldorf 100,000 incendiaries and explosives were dropped. Thirty factories were demolished. The total damage area covered 380 acres.

The center of Bremen is a heap of debris. Hardly a block of Hamburg remains intact. In Nurnburg 4 square miles honeycombed by fire and blast.

Almost half of Aachen and Munster, where 3,000 people were killed, are demolished.

All this destruction happened before January. The destruction wrought by American and British bombers the last 30 days, the greatest yet, has not been accounted. Nor the terrible ruin visited on the cities of Italy during the last few days.

How long can the criminals who set the pace for this appalling disaster, and the leaders of the plot to enslave the free peoples of Europe and America—how long can they stand this fearful retribution that has descended upon them?

The terms are UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Tomorrow is the birthday of one of America's greatest statesmen.

We pause to give respect to the memory of Abraham Lincoln because he was the friend of the South in the dark days when men's souls were tried, when our people had taken their baptism of fire and blood and humiliation and defeat.

The slave-traders of Boston and New York had unloaded thousands of slaves on Southern planters. The abolitionist North then wanted the slaves freed, but was unwilling that congress should pay the investors for the loss of their property.

Before it would be coerced the South would fight for its rights. It seceded from the Union.

The terrible war followed.

The South, after 4 years of unexampled suffering and sacrifice and of resistance to ten times the number of its own soldiers, and the irresistible power of the Federal Government, bankrupt, ragged and starving, yielded. It could do no more.

The heads of the party of Lincoln wanted the South punished and humiliated. Lincoln intervened. "Let the erring sisters go in peace," he counseled.

Though Jefferson Davis and other outstanding Southerners were imprisoned, the right of suffrage was denied the white men while granted to the ignorant slaves, and the country south of Mason and Dixon line subjected to humiliations that have not been forgotten to this day, still the amelioration of Lincoln's advice was felt and though dead his influence lived.

Every true Southerner will remember the friendship of Abraham Lincoln and ever honor his memory.

SNAP GOES THE BACKBONE OF WINTER

Not only the oomph girls will welcome the return of the sunshine and roses.

The dullest bachelor enjoys the wine-like warmth of the sweet south in his bones and listens with pleasure when the bluebird is warbling in the ether.

But there will be more mean weather yet. It is only that the worst is over. Cold winds will sweep in from the Blue Ridge, and cold swishing showers from Norfolk harbor. The Three Sisters of the Swarries may put on again the silver coats of sleet which they wore a week ago.

But the backbone of winter is broken. The bullfrogs have sung in the meadow. Soon violets will peep out, the fleur-de-lis will open its surprised eyes in the waking woods. The blacksnake will crawl up on the rock to warm.

The spirit of springtime from somewhere where gardens are blooming is loitering near.

THE EXTRA SCHOOL MONTH—WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH IT

Maybe it should be devoted exclusively to the three R's—readin' 'ritin' and 'rithmetic, and to the elimination of the three B's—biology, botany and basketball.

A return to the red-headed curriculum of the little red school house on the hill—for a month,

IS HITLER DEAD?—WE HOPE SO

There is a report that Hitler is dead.

It may be so or not so. If true, his co-assassins would not admit it for fear of its devastating effect on Hun morale, and its injury to Hun prestige in neutral countries.

Besides, these bandits would not want to afford so much satisfaction in England, America and Russia.

However, why should we center our hate on the Fuehrer, when all his pals and a goodly portion of the German people are fully as ambitious, arrogant and bloodthirsty as he.

The proud ruthless Prussian spirit is at the bottom and behind the crimes of Hitler.

One of the most eminent and conservative writers of the world says:

"I am convinced that the world could make no greater mistake than to treat the German people as innocent victims of bad leadership. Their good qualities are of tremendous potential value to the world. But they will remain only of potential value until Germany as a nation, and as a mass of individuals, is purged of the poison which was in them before Hitler came to power, and which alone made that aberration from international sanity possible.

"For I never met a German, even among those who talked loudest against Hitler, whose eyes did not gleam over the speed and success of the attack on Poland. I knew only one who was ashamed of the rape of Czechoslovakia. I never found one who did not find some point in the Nazi platform to approve.

"There must be no turning back from the task until Allied troops march down the Linden in Berlin and German militarism has been turned into dust in the mouths of the German people."

THE DAY OF RECKONING

The Japanese war lords are very careful to keep the rats at home in the dark about the terrible disasters that have come to them in the Solomons and at Buna at the hands of the Americans who always remembered Pearl Harbor.

When the last Japs were smashed out, the high command gave it out that they had evacuated Guadalcanal "after fulfilling their mission."

They did not say "their mission" was to re-take the island and that in failing dismally they lost 25,000 to 40,000 men killed, and that the "evacuation" was not back to the Jap army but to the Jap heaven—wherever that rat hole may be.

But it will take more than 40,000 dead rats to pay for Pearl Harbor.

From the assembly lines in half a hundred American steel factories bombers are rolling out at the rate of nearly 6,000 a month now.

This news must sound like the knell of doom to the most treacherous race in the world who must answer yet for their treachery at Pearl Harbor.

at least—would be healthy for high school graduates.

Good reading is rare, good writing extinct, and good arithmetic an abstrusity possessed by but few.