

V-E DAY "This is a day of thanksgiving and prayer--thanks that we have been delivered from the bloodiest war in history, thanks to those brave men, living and dead, who have been the means of our deliverance; and prayer that we may show humility, humanity, intelligence and charity in using the victory they have won for us.

"It is unnecessary to say that it is our duty to remain firm to the end. And this means something more, and something more difficult, than merely persisting till the defeat of Japan. All those regulations which have been necessary to maintain the economy, to supply the troops and to prevent impoverishment will now be doubly irksome. They will be doubly necessary. We can only imagine the devastation that has been wrought in Europe. For the first time in modern history whole cities, even whole provinces have ceased to exist.

"We come now to the real test of our professed ideals, for the sake of which we claimed to enter the war. We did so, we said, not to save our own skins but to make possible a just, peaceful human society which should embrace all the peoples of the earth. If that is what we want we must now sacrifice, not our lives, but our goods to save millions of our fellow men from starvation and from the moral and political disintegration which starvation will carry with it. There are already some indications that we shall be less willing to sacrifice our goods than we have been our lives, or at least the lives of our soldiers and sailors."

--from V-E Day Address of President R. M. Hutchins, University of Chicago.

THE EYES HAVE IT The following is from a report by Willis Weatherford (AFSC) after a trip to Italy where he was attending a meeting on refugees and displaced persons. It is, as he says, "an attempt to explain how I felt one day in Italy on a trip on an army truck from Rome to Naples: Surely you have eaten while the appealing eyes of a dog looked up into your face asking only for the crumbs while his tail happily beat against your leg. Change this scene to a roadside in Italy beside a bombed-out farm house, replace the dog by 8 hungry children, and you will begin to know how we felt as we opened our rations to lunch beside our truck.

"The children ranged from four to ten, although they looked older than the years indicated by their size. It was chilly, not cold, and drizzling slightly, yet these children stood about barefooted with their skin showing in places beneath the shorts and shirts they wore as inadequate protection against the cold. As we opened our lunch they said nothing, did not even hold out a hand, but simply stood in a little silent group watching our every move with sunken eyes. Have you ever tried to eat with such eyes, full of the innocence of childhood but the suffering of age, fastened upon every movement of your jaw? I found that I could not swallow, the food stuck in my throat. In such circumstances a tithe is not sufficient; I had to split half and half with these piercing eyes before I could swallow again."

FOUNDATIONS "There was," says the Christian Century, "too much smell of roasting flesh in the Communiques to make anyone feel like celebrating" the leveling of Tokyo. But the daily press describes the "Goop Bomb" with which the army and navy are burning up Japan's principal cities as the most terrible fire spreader in the world.

In the end this policy may prove to be the most terrible war spreader in the world. The Kuh report from London of Japanese offers to surrender strengthens the position of those who ask for an explicit statement of war aims and peace terms.

In San Francisco we are trying to lay the foundations of a new world order; what kind of foundations are we laying in Tokyo? Can peace be built on them?

Will Russia leave us to fight on alone?

Will war break out in Europe between Russian and British-American forces?

Will the military alliance of Russia, Great Britain and the U.S. collapse?

Will the possibility of world cooperation be lost?

We have a few copies of A. J. Muste's excellent analysis of the present international scene, dealing with these questions under the title DUMBARTON OAKS OR CHAOS, which we will be glad to mail, postpaid, for 10 cents. It is worth having.

ANNUAL MEETING



Official Notice: The Syracuse Peace Council will hold its Annual Business Meeting for hearing reports, the election of officers and such other business as may come before the meeting on Monday, June 18, at 8 o'clock in the YWCA.

Adelaide Webster is chairman of the Nominating Committee.

In addition, Paul Husted will show the film "How to Conquer War," and there will be a report of the San Francisco Conference.

Know your Peace Council Better; COME AND SHARE!

SPECIAL FROM LONDON In Germany, "Industrial life has stopped. All other life may end, too, if we are not very careful with disease sweeping the ruins....There is something vaguely threatening in the very completeness of the catastrophe which is overwhelming our main enemies. Over vast areas of Europe we see every element both of material civilisation and of political order and cohesion disappear before our eyes. Nothing like it has happened in the many wars of European history. Clearly the consequences of such a cataclysmic event are somewhat beyond calculation. One certain thing is that great care will be needed to prevent them from provoking, merely by their shattering impact and the upsetting of every balance of power, a new world crisis."

And referring to the millions of "displaced persons" Iris Carpenter writes: "These nomadic tribes of liberated peoples straggling their way back to civilisation are reducing the civilisation of Germany in their passing to something like that of the Middle Ages."

E A S Y E S S A Y S
By Peter Maurin
(from the Catholic Worker)

BIG SHOTS AND LITTLE SHOTS

1. When the big shots
become bigger shots
then the little shots
become littler shots
2. And when the little shots
become littler shots
because the big shots
become bigger shots,
then the little shots
get mad at the big shots.
3. And when the little shots
get mad at the big shots
because the big shots
by becoming bigger shots
make the little shots
littler shots
they shoot the big shots
full of little shots.
4. But by shooting the big shots
full of little shots
the little shots
do not become big shots,
they make everything all shot.

BETTER AND BETTER OFF

1. The world would be better off,
if people tried
to become better.
2. And people would become better
if they stopped trying
to be better off.
3. For when everybody tries
to become better off
nobody is better off.
4. But when everybody tries
to become better
everybody is better off.
5. Everybody would be rich
if nobody tried
to become richer.
6. And nobody would be poor
if everybody tried
to be the poorest.
7. And everybody would be
what he ought to be
if everybody tried to be
what he wants
the other fellow to be.

CONSCRIPTION NEWS It's "now or never," and unless the mail to our congressmen from the opponents of Peacetime Conscription is tremendously increased in the next ten days, the chances for postponement or defeat of such legislation are greatly lessened. Hearings are being held right now--until June 16--before the House Select Committee on Postwar Military Policy, and the most important man to direct your mail to is its chairman, Representative Clifton A. Woodrum, House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The hard fact is that the various organizations working for the passage of Conscription are both well organized and financed, and their campaign to newspapers, magazines, news agencies and congressmen has been much more effective lately than any efforts on the part of those who oppose this measure.-- Now is the time for all.....

THE BOOK END "Why Don't We Learn from History?" Here is a little book of 64 pages in which the noted British military expert, B. H. Liddell Hart, examines the facts of history and after twenty-five years spent in the study of war concludes that "the compulsory principle was fundamentally inefficient and the conscriptive method out of date..... To surrender it (our tradition of individual freedom) within after fighting to defend it against dangers without would be a supremely ironical turn of history." He further discusses "the illusion of victory," "the illusion that the latest enemy is 'different'," "the illusion of treaties" and the problems of force, world order, and religion in relation to it. **WE HAVE IT. YOU MAY BORROW.**

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