

# Reichfuehrer Would Rule or Ruin

## 'We Shall Drag Down World In Flames'—Hitler's Threat of 1932; Bloody Atrocities Follow

Lidice, Kiev, Dresden Among Towns Where Nazi Infamy Flamed

By RICHARD TOMPKINS AP Features Writer

NEW YORK.—"We may be destroyed, but if we are, we shall drag a world with us—a world in flames!"

So spoke Adolf Hitler in 1932 to his closest associates, according to Dr. Herman Rauschning, former president of the Danzig senate and an intimate of Hitler until he broke with the nazis in 1935.

"Our conversation then dealt with details of a future gas and bacterial war," Rauschning writes in prefacing the Hitler quotation. And later, as the terror of defeat gripped Hitler, the Berlin radio said:

"Before the peril can reach the heart of our beloved country, we will turn this continent into a maelstrom of destruction where only one cry is heard—the cry for blood . . . All now is at stake."

Was this an actual threat in an effort to soften the allies, with the hope of forcing a negotiated peace? Here are some of the deeds that were already done:

**LIDICE:** On June 16, 1942, the Czecho-Slovak village was erased by the gestapo. All males over 17—approximately 200—were killed; all women—about 200—were sent to concentration camps; all children—about 120—were placed in so-called reform schools in Germany. Every house was burned.

The nazi explanation was that arms were stored in the village; an illegal radio station operated there; that the inhabitants provided aid to those who made an attack on the nazi "protector" Heydrich. No trial was held.

**DISTOMO, THE GREEK LIDICE:** On June 10, 1944, the nazis slaughtered more than 1,000 residents, including babies in arms, then burned the village.

The population was herded into the village square, facing machine guns. The nazis opened fire and when all had fallen the troops went about pistolling those still alive and stamping the life from babies whom parents sought to protect with their own bodies. The Red Cross, four days after the massacre, found only a handful of survivors—all fear-crazed children roaming the woods. Thus the nazis avenged the deaths of 30 German soldiers in a battle with Greek resistance groups near the village.

**ORADOUR - SUR - GLANE,** French Lidice by mistake!

Again on June 10, 1944, German SS troops slaughtered all but eight of 800 inhabitants. Women and children were driven into a church and locked in with a case of explosives. An hour later the charge went off!

The village was destroyed, the nazis said, because its natives had a firearms dump. Later a German official stated the village was destroyed "in error." The atrocity was intended for Ora-dour-sur-Vayres, a larger place, 17 miles away, where the Maquis had clashed with German troops.

**KIEV:** More than 195,000 Soviet citizens were "tortured, shot or poisoned in murder vans" during the occupation of Kiev, a commission investigating destruction of the ancient city reported on Feb. 28, 1944.

**BORKI,** on the Warsaw-Minsk railroad: All the inhabitants of the village were executed and the village burned for the derailment of a train on another line, the Polish Telegraph Agency said on March 18, 1944.

**OSWIECIM:** The Polish Ministry of Information reported on March 21 that more than 500,000, mostly Jews, had been put to death at a concentration camp at Oswiecim, southwest of Krakow. Three crematories had been erected inside the camp to dispose of 10,000 bodies a day.

**ROVNO:** More than 102,000 civilians and prisoners of war were murdered in the Rovno region of pre-war Poland, a soviet extraordinary commission for investigation of German atrocities charged on May 7. Many were forced to dig their own graves.

**BUDAPEST:** The Hungarian government asserts that 1000 Jews will be condemned to death every time the allies raid Budapest, radio France in Algiers said on May 10.

Secretary of State Hull declared July 14 that the number of massacred Jews in Hungary was already great and "the entire Jewish community in Hungary which numbered nearly 1,000,000 was threatened with extermination."

**DRESDEN:** Forty-seven British and allied air officers were shot to death after a mass escape two months ago from a prison camp near Dresden, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden disclosed on May 19.

### COURAGE INSPIRES



NIEMOELLER, a German Lutheran pastor, preferred prison to Nazism. His courage inspired world sermons.

### Germany Many Times Has Been Aggressor in War

(AP Features) Germany's invasion of Poland September 1, 1939, wasn't her first aggression against a neighbor, nor was her attack on France and Russia in August, 1941, nor her attack on France in 1870.

German invasions, however, have many times been the other way round; Caesar's legions, Gustavus Adolphus' armies and Napoleon's artillery have plowed up her soil.

Since wild, fierce Teutoni in the second century BC invaded Italy, Germany has often deliberately chosen the sword in preference to the pen, and the savage sweep of Attila and his hordes westward in the fifth century AD provided the name by which Germans have been many times denounced: Hun.

Lombardy was invaded by Germany's Otto in 951, Henry II in 1046, Frederick Barbarossa in 1154, Frederick the Great struck the first blow in the Seven Years' war with the invasion of Saxony in 1756.

Von Bismarck, warrior-chancellor, overwhelmed Denmark in 1864, Austria in 1866 and France in 1870-1871.

### Treasury Census of Investments Abroad Proves an Advantage

AP Features

A US Treasury census of what Americans own abroad proved of unexpected help as the Allies struck into Axis-held territory. The information supplied by investors, for instance, enabled the American Military Government to know where public utilities and manufacturing plants are located and to prepare to repair them.

### ENEMY'S LEADER



ROMMEL won a place in history as the foe's most brilliant tactician. Not a heel-popping Junker, he came up hard way.

### Germany's Debt Went To Total Estimated at Over 50 Billion Dollars

AP Features

The Reparations commission after World War I fixed Germany's debt to the allied nations at 132,000,000,000 gold marks (about \$52,000,000,000 at normal exchange rates). At the end of five years (1924) when the Dawes plan for stabilizing Germany's currency went into effect the Reich had paid 8,405,000,000 marks in gold and products.

The Young Plan in 1929 adjusted the debt into 50 annual payments, running to 1939, and totalling 38,996,000,000 marks.

### Peace Plans At Hand for Close Study

(AP Features)

The men who determine Europe's pattern for tomorrow have at hand today the readymade blueprints of the many peace programs evolved by leaders and statesmen during the long war years.

The number of outlines, agendas, declarations and plans that cropped up in the allied nations was legion, but the ones outlined below seemed to receive the widest attention. Some evoked adverse criticism.

One of the first, and most authoritative was the Atlantic charter drawn up by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in 1941 and later backed by the United Nations. It called for the cooperation of all peoples to preserve peace, the right of small nations to freedom from aggression and governments of their own choice, the abandonment of force, the access to all the raw materials.

Other plans supported the principle of cooperation, differed on methods.

The formation of a four-power organization to keep the peace was proposed November 1, 1943, in Moscow at the conference of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China.

Vice President Wallace urged forcible and permanent disarmament of aggressors.

Wendell Willkie called for orderly abolition of colonial systems and the abolition of injustice.

Former President Herbert Hoover asked a world institution to keep peace, urged a cooling-off period after the armistice to prevent unjust peace terms.

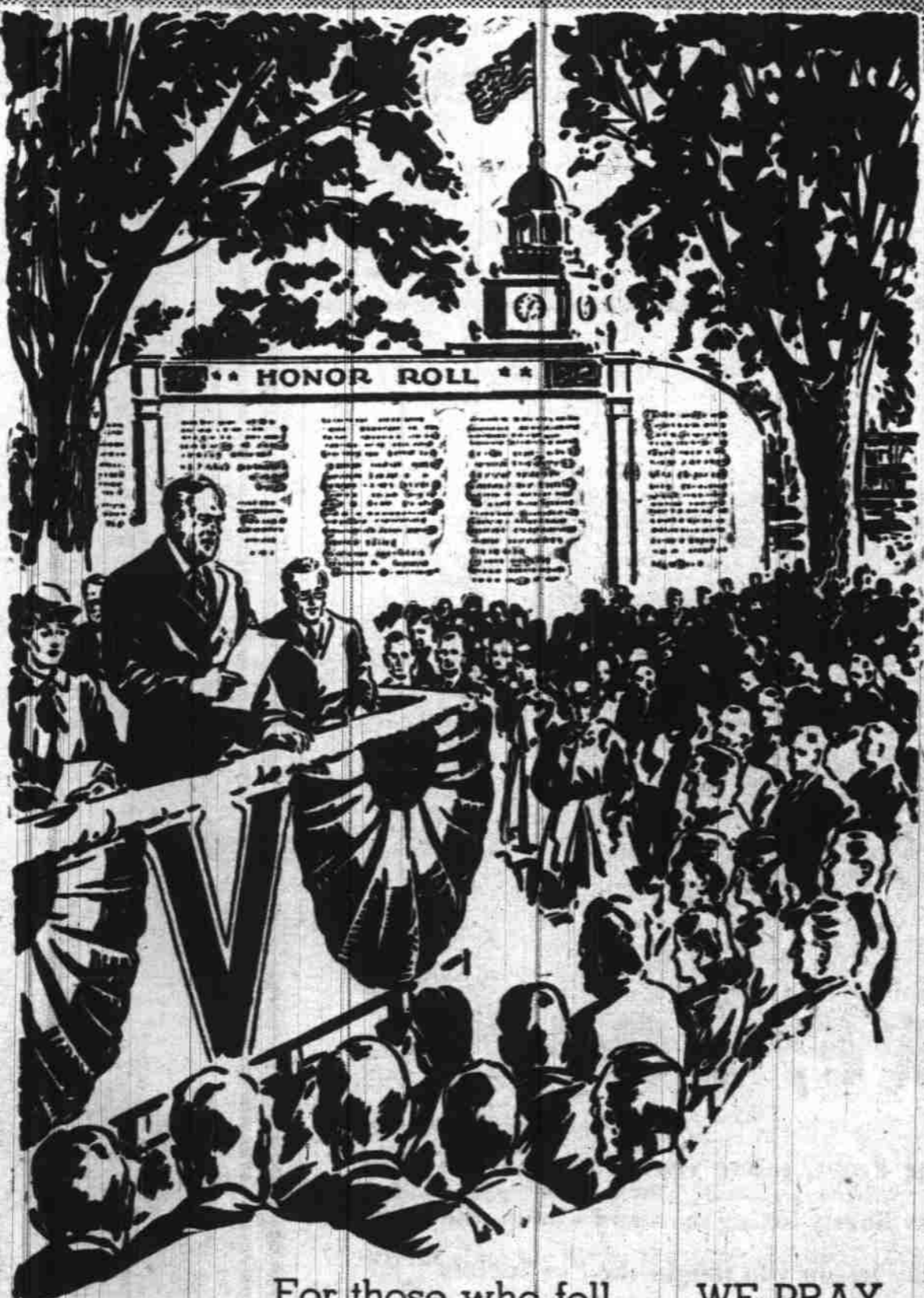


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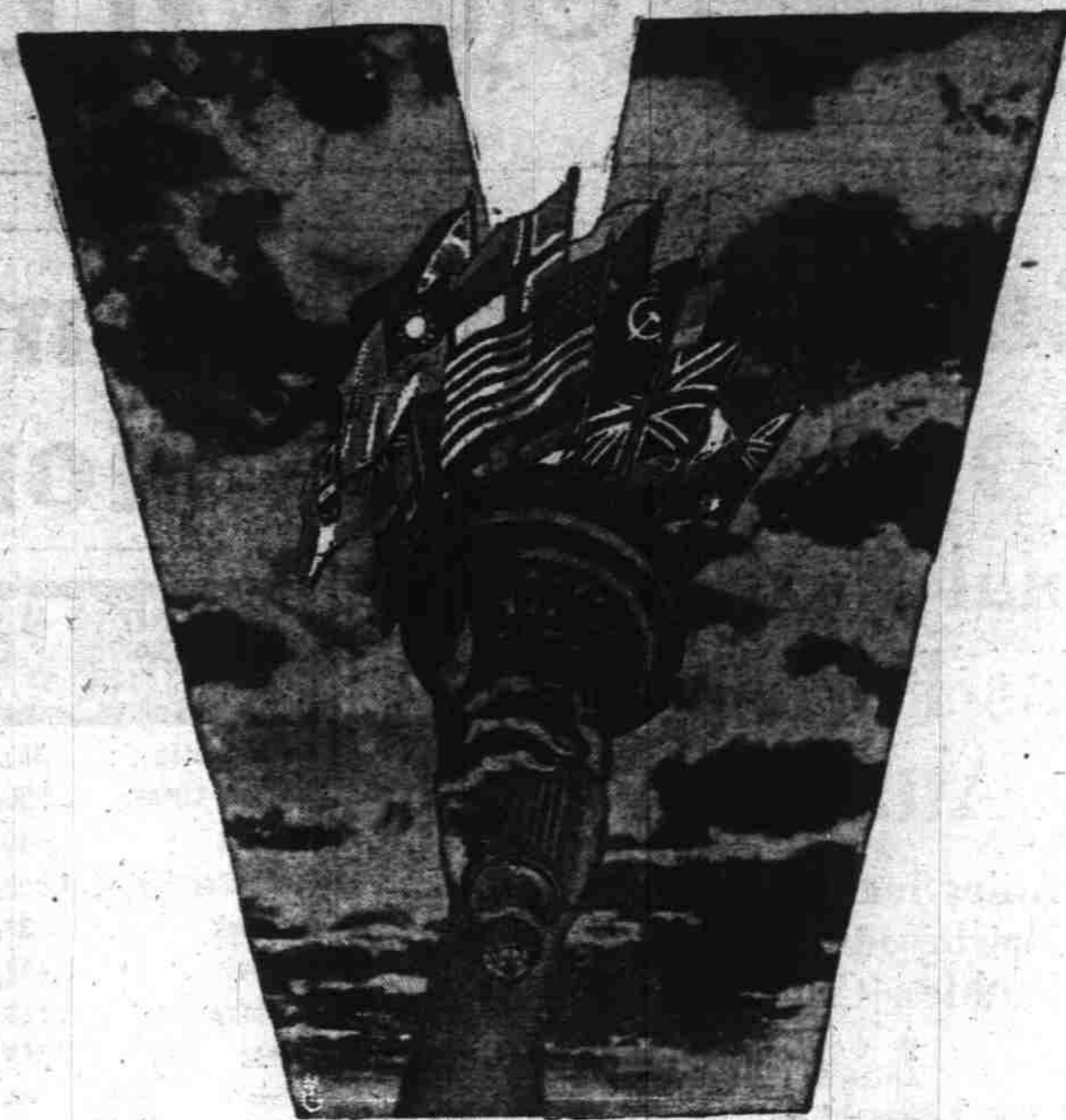


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# Victory brings Liberty to the Enslaved Peoples of Europe

In the hand of Liberty, the flags of the United Nations are a flaming banner of freedom for the liberated peoples of Europe, too long burdened by the yoke of Nazi oppression. All glory to the fighting forces whose unfailing courage has brought into being the Victory which now thrills lovers of democracy around the globe! All glory to their leadership, governmental and military, which conceived and executed the strategy of Victory. All glory to the peoples of the United Nations who found no sacrifice too great for the final defeat of Nazism. For "We Americans" there is still a final battle to be won: a final enemy to render impotent—Japan. Let us not diminish our efforts and sacrifices, so that Liberty's torch may forever brightly burn—never again to be threatened by force.

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