

Liberty

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Jews—burying their dead.

THE human mind, it seems, is capable of only so much horror, so much indignation. Go beyond that and the minds of men begin to protect themselves by a process of rationalization, assuring themselves that the horrors that are seen are too vast and cruel to be real. In this protective way we tell ourselves that we went all through this in the last war. We remember other stories of atrocities, unproven or disproven. We see them now, after this lapse of years, as incidents manufactured out of whole cloth to stir our passions and condition us for war. We play variations on the word propaganda until it loses its actual significance and becomes a synonym for barefaced lying. But this time we are wrong. The atrocities are real and proven.

The Germany we fought in 1914, bad as it may have been, dedicated to an ideal of force as it certainly was, still was not the Germany of today. It took twenty years and the terrorizing and debauching of the minds of a whole generation to break down the veneer of civilization that in 1914-18 still made Germany pay tribute to the conventions of a civilized world.

We are not fighting that nation today. We are fighting a Germany that either actively or passively has sold what little soul it had to an arrogant and perverted nationalism. We are fighting a Germany led by mad and vicious men who have betrayed and bestialized every decent instinct in their mad fight for world power and their bitter hatred of the Jew. The one we might, in time, forget; the other we have no right to forgive.

The blood of three million Jews is calling to us from the lands that have seen their awful agony: "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

They have not died, these three million Jews, in the hot, clean violence of battle. They have been starved to death, beaten to death, stifled to death in a vaster and crueler mass murder than anything that has defaced the darkest pages of the world's history.

This is not propaganda. This is truth, documented by a multitude of witnesses, authenticated by British White Papers and the cool official records of other governments. It has been authenticated by the denunciations of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope. But, most of all, Germany is accused out of her own boastful mouth, for the Nazi has openly boasted of his policy of *Judenrein*, the extirpation of the Jew from Germany and Poland and France and all the other conquered countries of Europe.

In the city of Warsaw there were once 500,000 Jews. Today the ghetto is empty and silent, with a silence more dreadful than any terror of sound. That silence speaks of the women and children shot to death by Nazi agents as they grouped about the high altar in the synagogue. It speaks of the tens and hundreds of thousands who have trodden the dreadful road to those death camps of Tremblinka and Belzec and Sobibor to be gassed to death, or electrocuted, or smothered with live steam. It tells of little children machine-gunned because they were too weak to work. The silence is the silence of death, and of judgment. Judgment on the perpetrators of these crimes, judgment on all of us, whether Jew or Gentile, who shut our hearts against the agony of a people.

Speak of propaganda if you will. Close your eyes and ears and heart against the horror and the cruelty of the *Judenrein*. Call the Jew an alien race. Wash your hands of responsibility as Pilate did. But a Gentile race that does not call for justice for the Jew will be forever accursed.

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