

THE MENORAH

By DR YISRAEL ELDAD

THIS WEEK IS THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II – THE FINAL UNDOING OF THE SWASTIKA, THE GERMAN HAKENKREUZ OR HOOKED CROSS, WHICH TRIED TO SINK ITS HOOKS INTO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE A NEW WORLD ORDER – A UNIFORM, NAZI WORLD ORDER.

THE ALLIED POWERS DID NOT LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS UNTIL HITLER'S MILITARY STRENGTH HAD BEEN COMPLETELY BROKEN, BERLIN HAD FALLEN, AND THE SURVIVING GERMAN GENERALS HAD FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT – AND SUBMISSION. GERMANY WAS DIVIDED, ITS BOUNDARIES WERE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED AND TEN MILLION GERMANS WERE EXPELLED FROM TERRITORIES THAT WERE HANDED OVER TO OTHERS, MAINLY TO POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE VICTORS DICTATED THEIR TERMS TO THE VANQUISHED.

There was only one goal in which Hitler succeeded: the destruction of European Jewry. And it is said that this was his final consolation. It is said that this is the only crime the world is willing to forgive him – the murder of six million Jews. And in fact, of all the four hooks of the swastika, this is the only one that has not been broken and is being fervently wielded by others.

In Israel the 27th of Nissan which this year falls on the 3rd of May is observed as the Day of Holocaust and Martyrdom, in memory of one-third of the Jewish people that was lost in Europe. It is the day on which the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was finally quelled; the most tragic revolt in history, hopeless from the start, doomed from the very beginning, a symbolic revolt of the Jewish spirit. A handful of half-starved Jews with a few hand grenades rose up against the world's greatest military machine at that time.

There are some who are averse to the way we harp on the events of that war, who resent the prominence we give to the role we played in it. The Communists erase all mention of the six million Jews from their history books and fail to include them in their monuments, listing them routinely among all the other victims of the war. Then in

Germany there are those who contend that – as the French say: "la guerre c'est la guerre," and the Germans also lost several millions. In denouncing the cruelty of war people speak in the same breath about Auschwitz and Hiroshima, as if there was any similarity between the two. With all the horror of the atom bomb, one cannot but regret that the Western world did not possess it a few years earlier in order to use it against Germany – for there can be no doubt that Nazi Germany would not have held back, nor would the Japanese, if they'd had the bomb.

Every nation tends to stress its singularity. And indeed the Jewish nation has much to be proud of in its singular historic and cultural contribution to mankind. But the singular distinction of having had six million of its members burned in the gas ovens it would be only too willing to have never had.

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The whole world celebrates V-day, the day Germany was defeated, but we are unable to share in this sense of triumph. For us, victory came too late. When we started to sound the alarm about what was going on in Treblinka we were told to hold our tongues, and for many months the horrors perpetrated there were kept hidden from the world.

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