WORLD WAR II

History

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries—including all the great powers—formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. It was the deadliest conflict in history, marked by 70 to 85 million fatalities, most of whom were civilians. It included massacres, the genocide of the Holocaust, strategic bombing, premeditated death from starvation and disease, and the only use of nuclear weapons in war. It was also a different type of conflict because of the use of communications, propaganda, and the strange (yet opposing) Japanese and German infatuations with racial purity.

> I then must Ask and answer Am I worth dying for?

Page 112, A Man Called Intrepid Harcourt Brace Iovanovich

That prayer reflected Stephenson's emotional response to what was happening in Europe. He talked little about these feelings, Donovan recalled in later years. Instead, Stephenson assembled a formidable number of documents that proved beyond doubt that Germany was committed to the most gruesome policies of mass murder and enslavement. Orders issued as far back as 1933 laid down the basis on which human beings were to be graded in accordance with Hitler's theories of racial purity. German "educational" films showed how doctors should select infants by measuring them against charts for the correct color of hair and eyes, the proper length and shape of nose and skull, and why it was important to discard children of inferior quality. The purification of the Germanic race, and in time the purification of all humanity, was the Nazis' declared aim. Carefully selected Germans were to mate and produce purebred infants. In conquered territories, a system had been devised for picking out the few children deemed worthy of "Germanization." The rest were to be given limited educations—enough to make them useful laborers-or left to die. Nazi proposals for populating the globe with German supermen were not matters of conjecture. Stephenson produced the written orders, the propaganda films, the textbooks and bureaucratic forms by which the world was to be purified with Teutonic thoroughness, because he believed this gave the Nazis their drive; this was their ambition, this was their aim. Everything else-military campaigns, battles won or lost-was secondary to the great overriding impulse to purge the human race of "impure blood."

DNA tests of the Austrian Hitler's relatives find genes of Berbers of Morocco and Algeria, as well as Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

Legends & Lessons

Not all German citizens agreed:

Sophia Magdalena Scholl

Sophie's pamphlets' plea: "Support the resistance movement in the struggle for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and protection of the individual citizen from the arbitrary action of criminal dictatorstates." In the People's Court on February 22, 1943 she testified: "Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare express themselves as we did."



Glass Art by Veruska Vagen (PLC Legacy Collection)

She was beheaded by an SS (Homeland Security) executioner in a Munich prison a few hours later. A member of the WW II White Rose resistance group, Sophia was age 22. https://whiterosehistory.com/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophie_Scholl

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Lutheran minister during WW II, Dietrich publicly challenged the Nazis and was rewarded with imprisonment. As the war ended, he was hanged principally because of his involvement in assassination plots to eliminate Hitler. His prison thinking and writings regarding religion-less Christianity still shake the theological world. http://www.dbonhoeffer.org/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer

"At the age of thirty, he was barred from his academic post: when he was thirty-four, the pulpit was closed to him; at thirty-five, written publication was forbidden; and by his imprisonment at thirty-seven, even conversation with his friends was denied. Yet, each time this narrowing circle came closer, his acting and thinking gained power and stretched into new dimensions. When he was silenced for good at thirty-nine (April 9, 1945), he began to speak more loudly than ever before."

(Eberhard Bethge, The Challenge of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life, Chicago Theological Seminary Register, February 1961)