

What the Hell Can We Get Out of This War?

THE ANSWER: The best bill of goods any nation has ever had; the only bill of goods by which any nation can survive; the only bill of goods by which this nation has ever lived—Decency!

And what is decency?—the right to live and die without fear; the right to live among friends and family; the right to die in peace amidst quiet tears, hoping to find a place beside God.

This is worth fighting for; this is worth killing for; so that good people may keep their world a decent place in which to live and die.

The world belongs to the good people. Every highway and every sea lane must be open to the good men and women of every land so they may pursue happiness, with its bread and laughter, finding God in their own way, be it in a garden among flowers or in a temple among strangers. In the dank darkness settling over most of the world it is getting on toward midnight. Past that zero deadline looms a dawn splashed with blood, streaked with hate.

That dawn must never come. That dawn must and can be stopped by the United States.

Hitler has spit in the face of every decent man and woman in the world. He has spit in the face of every child, in the faces of the men and women who follow God, be they Jew, Protestant or Catholic.

Hitler must be killed and all the others who would be Hitlers must go with him to his grave.

The United States must declare war against Germany and with this declaration add a simple clause condemning to death Hitler and his agents. The international gangland must go.

name I have forgotten. In handing down a decision he declared that free speech, even under a Democracy, did not permit a man to yell fire in a crowded theater. I don't understand why we are permitting men and women, high in the walks of American life, to scream fire in a crowded theater—the fire of isolation, the fire of appeasement, the fire of defeatism.

There are many things I don't understand but I think that's unimportant.

When I was a child I didn't always understand my parents but they were invariably right. I have read the Bible and I don't understand all of it. I don't always understand my country but I am willing to follow it passionately and loyally to my grave.

I have a feeling the world will be decent again and the United States will help its gallant brothers England and China to make it so. If it takes the rest of our days, let's at least bequeath our children a decent world. That's a mighty fine legacy to leave behind. It's the legacy we inherited.

It's close on to midnight . . . another dawn is about to break through.

Mr. President and Congress, we are awaiting your marching orders. Surely there is a job for every man and woman in the United States to do at this zero hour.

RUSSELL BIRDWELL

New York City, July 10, 1941

(An Advertisement)