

Editorial

Don't become what you're fighting

1.5 million German WW II prisoners of war were starved to death in American and French internment camps

Good. Serves the bastards right, many of us would say. Our ideological manipulators created pure villains (Germans) and pure good guys (us) during and after World War 2.

But the bulk of Hitler's army was made up of gullible, ignorant, ordinary working class men (with the support of their women) fired up with a false sense of destiny by a brilliant orator. They were turned into a war machine that resulted in tens of millions of casualties.

The media, especially Hollywood, has romanticized war, using actors like the late John Wayne who, on film, won the war against the Axis powers in Europe and in the Pacific, while in real life was a two-time draft dodger using his connections with rightwing Republicans to escape conscription.

As a result of propaganda by media controlled by the one per cent, Americans, especially, can do no wrong and everyone else hates us because they are jealous of our freedoms. I say *us* and *our* because Canada's prime minister, Stephen Harper, has taken us from the noble role of peacekeepers to being an accomplice of the American ambition that has transformed from being world leader to being world owner.

You can be sure that the survivors of the millions of casualties of today's American-led war of world conquest look on us just as we looked on the Germans. Despite the propaganda, be sure that they hate us because we devastate them with war. In their lust for war those Americans who beat the drums should take heed of one of their own generals.

William Tecumseh Sherman (8 February 1820 – 14 February 1891) was a Union general during the Civil War. He is best known for his destructive "March to the Sea" through the state of Georgia and is widely regarded as an early advocate of "Total War".

Before the war he said, "You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end. It is all folly, madness, and a crime against civilization! You people speak so lightly of war; you don't know what you're talking about. War is a terrible thing!"

He later said, in the wake of victory, "I confess, without shame, that I am sick and tired of fighting — its glory is all moonshine; even success the most brilliant is over dead and mangled bodies, with the anguish and lamentations of distant families, appealing to me for sons, husbands, and fathers ... it is only those who have never heard a shot, never heard the shriek and groans of the wounded and lacerated ... that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation."

In 1990 Moscow acknowledged the 1940 execution-style massacre of 22,000 Polish officers. Washington has yet to admit the virtual death sentence on 1.5 million German prisoners of war in 1945-1946.

Let's hope America will again hear General Sherman's voice.

War is hell, as General Sherman said. We should do our best to avoid it.

—Carl Dow

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