

LISA GAVRIC The Question-Mark Human Being

Reflecting back upon the months she spent in the Nazi Concentration Camp of Ravensbrück (1944-1945), Lisa Gavrič (1907-1974) forces herself to describe the indescribable that she survived. She speaks of the insanity of people, who were seen by others as being normal, before having been taken prisoner by the fascists and also again after regaining their freedom, but who, during their stay in Ravensbrück, had had their sanity poisoned by the fact that they were reduced to mere anonymous numbers and this weighed heavily on their psychological condition for the rest of their lives.

DIDIER ARNAUD Maillé, a Forgotten Village

This is a report about the French village, Maillé, where, August 25, 1944, German troops liquidated 130 women, children and elderly people – nearly the entire population. It is also a report on the fate that village suffered over the decades that followed, because no one dared recall that terrible incident. August 25th was also the day Paris was liberated – and Maillé was forgotten.

LEONID LOPATNIKOW At War, at the Age of 18

Leonid Lopatnikow, who, in the sixties and seventies, became an internationally renowned author of books on economic-mathematical methods, reflects upon the time as a young man of 18, from beginning of the German aggression against the Soviet Union on June 22nd, 1941 up to his being gravely wounded on January 18th, 1942. He recalls his work for the defense of Moscow as a Komsomol group member as well as his being a Red Army soldier.

WLADIMIR GALL The Friend Konrad Wolf

Wladimir Gall, peace-negotiator of the Red Army at Berlin-Spandau on May 3rd, 1945 and later Soviet cultural officer in Halle/Saale, looks back upon his common actions in the Red Army with Konrad Wolf during the war. Wolf, later, one of the leading film directors of the GDR, belonged to the very small group of young Germans who had grown up in Moscow, who had been allowed by Stalin to serve in the ranks of the Red Army in the battles against the German Wehrmacht and then in the organizing activities in liberated Germany.

WOLFRAM ADOLPHI The Young Lieutenant's Diary

This is a review of Wladimir Gelfand's Deutschland-Tagebuch 1945-1946 which presents a unique insight both into the Red Army during the decisive battles for Berlin and into the German society of the period immediately following liberation. Gelfand, a Lieutenant of Jewish-Ukrainian origin, served from May 1945 until his demobilization in September 1946 at various locations around Berlin. His diary also permits a very intimate view into his personal actions, his feelings and his reflections.

MATTHIAS BRIEGER Wehrmacht Deserters in the Italian Resistenza

The author describes the fate of German soldiers who deserted the fascist Wehrmacht and struggled at the side of the Italian resistance. The article focuses particularly on

the aspect that, in some soldier cemeteries in Italy, where deserters are buried alongside high-ranking Nazi butchers. Some German organizations disrespect the fundamental difference between these two groups of German soldiers. They memorialize indifferently both groups, as if they were the same.

JÜRGEN HOFMANN Memory vs. Self-Disculpation

The author heavily criticizes efforts on the part of various German political forces and opinion makers, who are attempting to revise the unambiguous confession to German guilt for World War II, as it had been expressed, for example, in 1985, by former President Richard von Weizsäcker. These forces – he says – disregard seeing May 8, 1945, as being the Day of Liberation and see the »logical final point of World War II« as being the collapse of the Soviet Union. The author presents a wealth of facts in his argumentation against this sort of historical revisionism.

WOLFGANG WIPPERMANN »Like the Jews«?

The Controversial Debates about the Genocide Perpetrated Against the Sinti and Roma (the Gypsies)

The genocide perpetrated by fascist Germany against Jews – the Shoah – and the genocide perpetrated by them against the Sinti and Roma – Porrajmos – must be seen, the author says, in the same context. It is high time to overcome the multiple forms of discrimination Roma and Sinti are having to contend with, even today, in Germany. This discrimination reaches even into the culture of memory and of memorials – a situation which becomes even more intolerable.

MARIO KESSLER Anti-Semitism after Hitler

The common claim that »the German people did not know« what was being done in their name, does not hold up under serious examination. Many observers visited Germany from abroad in the immediate aftermath of the war, in order to learn how many Germans had opposed Nazism and had helped Jews and how many had accepted the Nazi propaganda. Among them were Saul Padover, Robert Jungk, and Isaac Deutscher. Their reports from post-war Germany are discussed in this essay.

GERHARD WAGNER From the »Merry Widow« to »The Third Man«

This article, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Austria's liberation from fascism, deals with the legendary Carol Reed movie. Based on a story by Graham Greene (Great Britain, 1949), it refers to the relationship between the history of Vienna's images. That as expressed in operetta, feature film and advertising covering the 19th and 20th centuries, on the one hand, and its war history and the plot, the authentic locations and the symbols used in this film. In this way, the author underlines that »The Third Man« is an important milestone in post-war realism for the film industry of Western Europe.

ILSEGRET FINK Sigmund Freud – the Forgotten Pacifist

The author reviews the pacifist positions that Sigmund Freud time and again publicly expressed, and his correspondence with Albert Einstein on the question of war and peace. The author asks why, following the May, 1945 victory of the allied armies, there was no allied demand to ban war, in general. Should not all the Freudian psycho-analysis institutes in existence worldwide be joined with the institutes of Freudian pacifism?