

## A War Ago

LIFE'S PICTURE HISTORY OF  
WORLD WAR II. New York: Simon  
& Schuster. 368 pp. Regular edition,  
\$10. De luxe edition, \$12.

By JOHN T. WINTERICH

MORE than 400,000 copies of this book had been sold to subscribers before publication, which is heartening news indeed—there are still voids which television, blue convertibles, and canasta layouts cannot fill, and one is that 14 x 10½ inch blank space on the left side of the living-room table. This book carries no names on the title page. Opposite the title, however, are listed the twenty-one members of the “editorial task force.” Theirs is a noble accomplishment.

Not that it is flawless. Flawlessness is never an attribute of an anthology except to the anthologizer. And this compilation is basically an anthology—a journalistic iceberg of which only a fraction appears above the surface.

There is an inevitable loss of immediacy and intimacy in viewing these pictures today, some of them eleven years after the event. They have frozen into history. They tend to make the reader look upon Korea not as a consequence but as a completely unrelated incident. Korea is a mere spot on the map in this book. There is no reason why it should have been anything more. Korea is the here and the now; this book is the far away and the long ago.

For the record, there are nearly a thousand pictures, admirably selected and superbly reproduced, and some 80,000 words of text—a running history of the war that approximates the dimensions of a not-overlong novel. Most of the text is by the *Life* staff, but John Dos Passos supplies full-page introductions to the sectional selections. He is miscast in his role of Greek chorus; a simple chronological summary by a drudging unknown would have been more useful.

“Life’s Picture History of World War II” may not be the best conceivable compilation of its sort, but it is easily the best that has been produced since the war ended. For comprehensiveness it is hardly in a class with the multivolumed “Battles and Leaders of the Civil War” or the “Photographic History of the Civil War,” but if something of the size of those monuments were attempted today, only a few heavily endowed repositories could acquire copies.

Not least among the many virtues of this book is its conscientious adherence to the idea that the war was not an all-American endeavor.



—W. Eugene Smith.

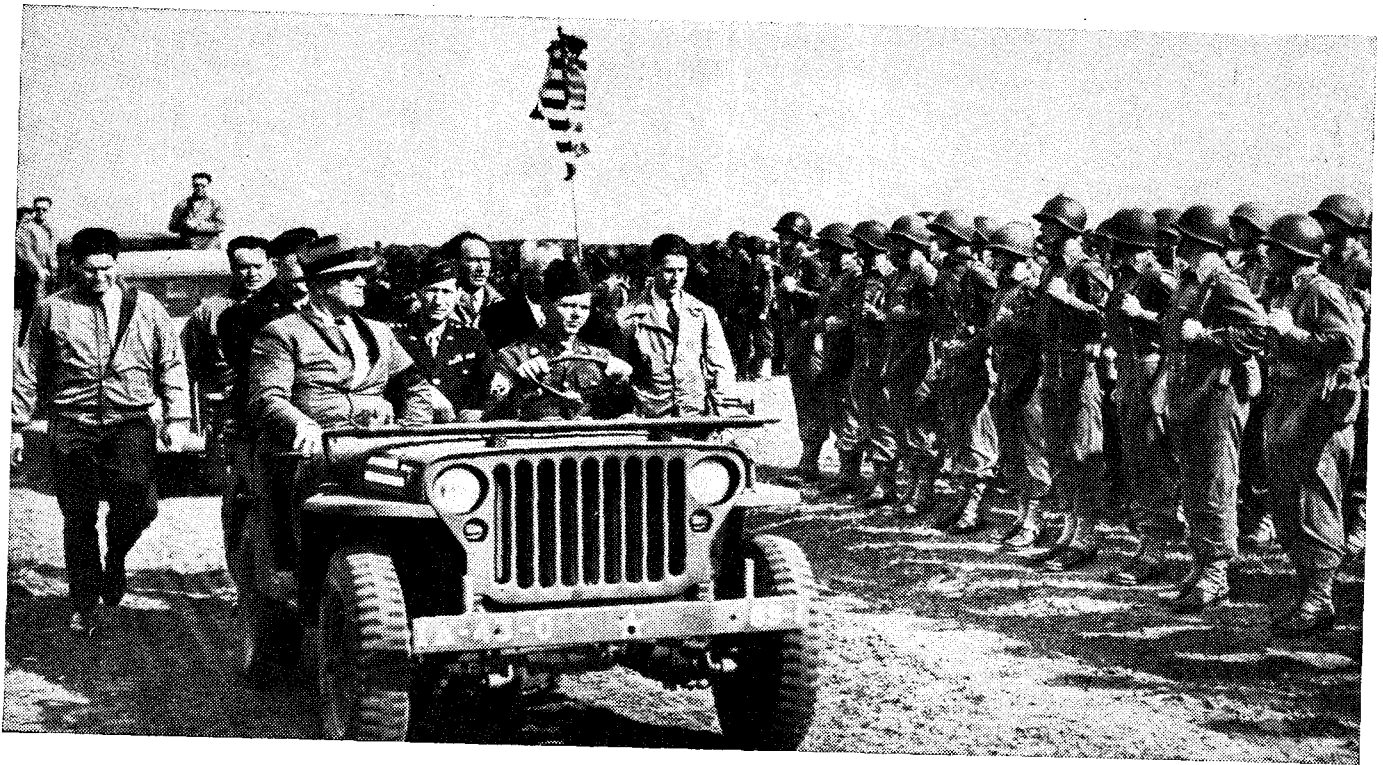
A Leyte cathedral doubling as hospital for American casualties.



—Official U. S. Navy photo, courtesy Edward Steichen.

The USS *Hornet* stings a Jap bomber to death.





Roosevelt in Africa—the first President since Lincoln to enter a battle area.

—Admiralty photo, Crown copyright reserved.



—Edward Clark.

Tears for the passing of FDR.



—W. Eugene Smith.

War's end.



—William Vandivert.

A bus bows to the blitz.

NOVEMBER 4, 1950



## World Notes

**DAYS FOR DECISION**, by Anthony Eden. Houghton Mifflin. \$3. This collection of Mr. Eden's political speeches and articles was, in a way, outdated well before their incorporation in book form. Most of them were designed to harpoon the Labor Government for its sins of commission and omission prior to the general elections last winter. In that sense they might be said to have given aid and comfort to British Tories and to explain very one-sidedly his party's position during what he calls the "days for decision." It might also be recalled that the decision went against Mr. Eden—even if the voters made matters uncomfortably close for the Laborites.

But in a broader sense Mr. Eden's book is something for the present and future. For one thing, although everything about this book except a few reprinted articles on foreign affairs has a decided political slant, set against the background of the current American campaign Mr. Eden's type of oratory could do worse than serve as a model to our own politicians. He is temperate, quite specific in his statements, unemotional, and at pains to present an argument that on its face at least bears some resemblance to fact and logic.

For another thing, this book can tell us a great deal about the man who will carry the Conservative colors when Winston Churchill puts himself out to pasture. On that day there will be no intellectual retrogression. If anything, Mr. Eden seems fresher-minded to handle domestic problems than his predecessor. But without Mr. Churchill British oratory will undoubtedly lose some of its sparkle. Mr. Eden is no master of the thrusting epigram and the rolling phrase. In his defense, however, let it be said that his leaner style also saves him from compounding the gamier sentences to which Churchillian rhetoric is occasionally prone.

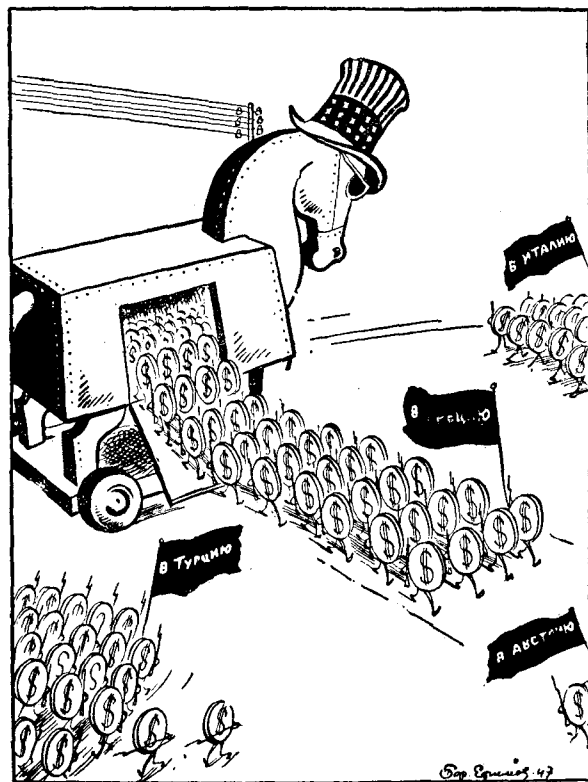
—PETER R. LEVIN.

**CHURCH AND STATE IN ENGLAND**, by Cyril Garbett. Macmillan. \$3. This temperate, lucid, and uncontroversial study explains the existing relations between the Church of England and the State by analyzing their historical origins. The author, who is the present Archbishop of York, believes that changed conditions in recent decades have made some moderate readjustments advisable. He carries his learning modestly, shows a close familiarity with the details of ecclesiastical history, and avoids sectarian and doctrinal disputes. His conclusion that the Establishment as

it stands is inconsistent with the fullest spiritual freedom rests upon a present anomaly and a future possibility. Today the ecclesiastical authorities are subject to lay control. The bishops of the Church of England are nominated by the Prime Minister; any alterations in the canons must be approved by Parliament; any appeal from the Ecclesiastical Court is decided by lay court — by judges appointed by the State. Thus laymen who need not be and often are not members of the Church of England can change its constitution and its policies. The possibility that if a totalitarian regime arose in Britain it might attempt to make the Established Church its instrument is a remote but not wholly unreal danger, and a communion that enjoyed greater independence would be less vulnerable to such political subversion. These and other considerations persuade the author that the Church of England should be permitted, like most churches of the Anglican Communion in the Dominions, to legislate for itself so far as the reform of its own canons is concerned.

—GEOFFREY BRUUN.

**OUT OF THE CROCODILE'S MOUTH**, edited by William Nelson. Public Affairs Press, Washington, D.C. \$2.50. This is a significant and striking collection of cartoons about the United States from Moscow's humor magazine *Krokodil*. The reproductions are preceded by an illuminating introduction. The "theme of anti-Americanism," reports Mr. Nelson, "has become a Soviet monomania," and he quotes Cyrus Sulzberger of *The New York Times* to support his belief that the attack is succeeding: "It is apparently no longer correct to employ the familiar cliché that despite their Government the Russian people are friendly to us. They are being too carefully taught not to be." Certainly these mordant caricatures are an important and powerful factor in this system of pedagogy. The targets are what one would expect them to be: crime, war-mongery, Wall Street, unemployment, race prejudice, loyalty tests, the Communist trials, Hollywood, the press. The ideas are always arresting, the execution generally excellent—here, indeed, is a portentous weapon in competent hands. Practically every thumb-down American is



—From "Out of the Crocodile's Mouth."

### "The Modern Trojan Horse."

smoking a cigar, occasionally a pipe; cigarettes seem to be as scarce in these cartoons as they were during the war shortage. Most American men, workers aside, wear glasses; all American newspapermen do. The details are amusing, but the general effect gives one to shudder. The book is the ninth unit in the series of monographs on Current Soviet Thought prepared under the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. —J. T. W.

**THE HOLY SEE AT WORK**, by Edward L. Heston, C. S. C. Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee. \$2.50. There are more than three hundred million people on this earth whose church is governed by the Pope, yet his authority reaches out to affect the life of each and every one of them. Such is the stupendous responsibility and the efficiency of the Holy See. Conversely, the individual Catholic has a claim on the services of the Holy See. One of the cases cited in Father Heston's book concerns an African laborer whose contested marriage was adjudged by the renowned Rota. (The Dean of the Rota enjoys the prestige corresponding to that of our Supreme Court Chief Justice.)

Much as our President governs through his Cabinet and the various Federal departments and offices, the Pope directs the Roman Catholic Church through the Curia. This is the

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