A GERMAN LEAFLET

This is the text of a German leaflet of which a copy has reached England. Students of the University of Munich wrote and distributed it in February. For this, six of them were executed, others were thrown into prison, others again were sent to the front as a punishment. Since then, at all other German universities the students are being purged. The leaflet evidently expresses the feelings of a considerable proportion of the German students.

But it is not only the students. In all walks of life there are Germans who have realised Germany’s real position. Goebbels vilifies them the “objective ones”. Whether Germany herself can still change her fate depends on whether these people can get together and act. Goebbels knows this, and that is why he declared frantically “that these kind of people are numerically of no importance.” They are not to know how many of them there are.

We English are going to win the war anyhow. But we do not see why the sensible and decent ones in Germany should not be heard. That is why the airmen of the R.A.F. are dropping together with their bombs, millions of copies of this leaflet over Germany, for which six young Germans have died, and which the Gestapo naturally confiscated.

Manifesto of the Munich Students

“The German people stands aghast before the destruction of the men of Stalingrad. 330,000 German men have been irresponsibly and uselessly hounded to their death by the brilliant strategy of the World-War-Corporal. Führer, we thank you.

“Students, our people is in ferment. Are we going to continue to entrust an amateur with the fate of our Armies? Are we going to sacrifice the remainder of German youth to the lowest power instincts of a Party clique? Never!

“The day of reckoning has come, the reckoning of our German youth with the most detestable tyranny which our people has ever had to suffer. In the name of the whole German nation we demand from the State of Adolf Hitler the restitution of personal freedom, that most precious possession of the Germans, out of which we have been cheated.

“We have grown up in a State of brutal oppression of all free expression of opinion. The Hitler Youth, the S.A. and the S.S. have tried to regiment, revolutionise and stun us during the most impressionable years of youth. Weltanschauliche Schulung (political
training) was the term used for the contemptible method of killing the development of individual thought and judgment in a mass of platitudes. In a most devilish and stupid manner future Party chiefs are turned, in *Ordensburgen* (Party Schools) into godless, shameless and irresponsible exploiters and murderers, into blind stupid followers of a leader. It would suit the Party bosses if we, the young intellectuals, were to become their willing tools. Soldiers who have seen active fighting are ordered about like schoolboys by Student Leaders and *Gauleiter* candidate's who have never seen the front. *Gauleiters* attack the honour of girl students by means of filthy jokes. German girl students at Munich University have given a dignified answer to these attacks on their honour. German students have made a stand on behalf of their girl colleagues. That is a beginning of a fight for our free self-determination, without which spiritual values cannot be created. We thank the brave students of either sex who have set such an excellent example.

“We have only one duty; to fight against the Party. Leave the Party organisations which take from us the right of political expression! Boycott the lectures of the Party professors! We are concerned with true learning and real freedom of thought! No threats can frighten us, not even the closing of our universities! For each one of us it is a fight for our future, our freedom and honour in a nation conscious of its moral responsibility!”

“We freedom and Honour! Hitler and his confederates have for the past ten years used, abused and twisted these two beautiful German words until they have become loathsome. They have thrown the highest ideals of a nation into the gutter! What they mean by freedom and honour they have shown only too well in ten years of destruction of all personal freedom, all freedom of thought and all moral principles of the German people. The eyes of even the most stupid German have been opened by the terrible blood bath in which they endeavour to drown all Europe in the name of freedom and honour of the German nation. The German name will remain for ever dishonoured if German youth does not at last arise, revenge and atone, destroy its tormentors and help build up a new spiritual concept of Europe.