

064_0001

page 64 What Did We Fight For?

World War II has just ended. What did we fight for?

We fought for truth. That is rather a pompous sounding statement but I sincerely believe it. I was fighting for the truth, and fighting to the limit. I would rebel at fighting and bloodshed unless it were for truth as I could see it. To me, "truth is more than flesh is, mine enemy's or mine", and so I fought. I know that many fought with less faith, hope and recklessness but they fought for what they believed in (as needed in social context) as the truth never-the-less-- their way of life.

What is the truth? It is a world marked by the spirit of the command, "Do with others as you would have them do unto you." Of course that is yet to be won. The more immediate truth that we fought for was our way of life as the means of transition to a greater and universal happiness. And this immediate battle has been [partially] won. We fought for the inalienable rights of every man: knowledge, "freedom of speech [speech] and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear." [From President Roosevelt's State of the Union address, 1941.] Yes, but we all fought for aspects of truth -- idealists but also cynics, realists and ignoramouses. We won World War I and then failed to lean to work peacefully, constructively and progressively together. We have just won World War II. and now must try wholeheartedly and continually to work understandingly together to prevent World War III and build a saner world. "We debouch upon a newer mightier world, varied world; Free and strong the world we seize, world of labor and the march." August, 1945 (note "back at college" was added a later date. He did not return to college until November, 1945. This was probably written on his way home from England.)

page_0001