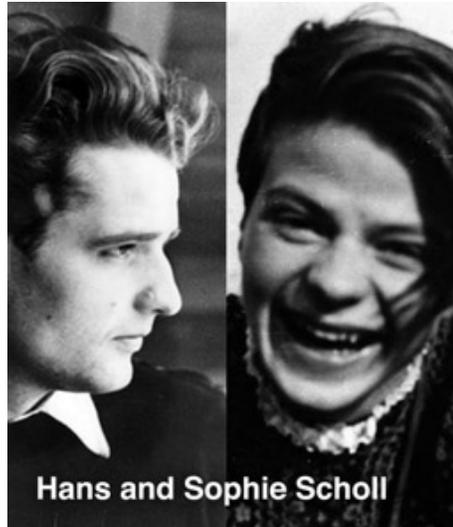


February 23, 2017

Freedom's Friends

Yesterday marked a solemn anniversary. Seventy-four years ago — on Feb. 22, 1943 — three German students at the University of Munich were tried for treason by the Nazis, convicted and then executed via the guillotine, all in one day.

Days earlier, Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie had been caught distributing a leaflet at the university, which read: "In the name of German youth, we demand restitution by Adolf Hitler's state of our personal freedom, the most precious treasure we have, out of which he has swindled us in the most miserable way."



"Nothing is so **unworthy of a civilized nation** as allowing itself to be "**governed**" without **opposition** by an **irresponsible** clique that has yielded to **base instinct.**"

— THE WHITE ROSE

The **White Rose** leaflets were written by a small circle of **young German students** who eloquently **opposed the Third Reich** in the face of almost **certain death**.

The Nazi "**trials**" and **executions** of the **White Rose** resisters began **72 years ago this week**.

www.thisIsCommonSense.com

Hans had in his pocket a draft of another leaflet, in Christoph Probst's handwriting. That seventh leaflet, never distributed, led to Christoph's arrest and execution, along with Hans and Sophie.

The three were part of a small group of students who wrote and distributed leaflets under the name The White Rose — a symbol of purity standing against the monstrous evil of the Third Reich. The leaflets decried the crimes of National Socialism, including the mass murder of Jews, and urged Germans to rise up.

Three more members were later executed: Willi Graf, Alex Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber. Another eleven were imprisoned.

Their resistance was ultimately futile, unsuccessful . . . but not pointless. They would not remain cogs in the killing machine that had taken the most advanced society in the world to the depths of depravity. They took a stand against what George Orwell later characterized as "a boot stamping on a human face, forever."

Let's remember, and say, "Never again." And have the courage to make those words true.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

*N. B. For an excellent account of The White Rose, consult the aptly titled *A Noble Treason*, by Richard Hanser. See also Jacob Hornberger's *The White Rose — A Lesson in Dissent*. The Orwell quotation is from the dystopian novel *1984*.*

On the web at: thisIsCommonSense.com

Think Freely Media, 180 West Adams Street, 6th floor, Chicago, IL 60603 | FAX: 703-910-7728