

A brief comment on my banning by facebook

In December, I do not remember the exact date; I created a new album on the Berlin Wartourist Page. I called it 'Wartime Christmas' and it embraced examples of the plight and the pleasures on both sides during the First and the Second World War, at the front and back home.



One of the photos showed Christmas tree decorations in the Third Reich, commenting on how Nazi ideology sifted into everyday life of the common German. Hardly had I clicked 'Post' before this message [left] appeared on the screen!

This was my first ban ever, and quite frankly I was stunned. Yes, I realize there is a Swastika on the decorations, but *Hey!* - that symbol was pretty commonplace in Hitler's Third Reich, in case you don't know, facebook!

Well, there was little to do but sucking it up; I mean, it was not that they invited to a dialogue or asked questions about my motives or something. I was just a lash with the schoolmasters cane and then three days detention for you my boy; *that'll teach you!*

Next offence

I recuperated and carried on, business as usual, albeit I was trying to lay low and thought twice before I posted. Little good did it do me though. On Wednesday this week, while I was busying myself with other matters, this decree suddenly popped up on the screen:



I completely fail to see what could offend anyone here? The children are caroling while a Wehrmacht soldier (not even an SS) apparently is on guard somewhere. The symbolism seems to be that the trooper (father?) is vigilant so that the children can be safe? No Swastikas; no hailing; no violent action! What is wrong here?

The most troublesome aspect of this particular ban is, however, that it is an item I *posted back in December*, when I created the (infamous, apparently) album. That probably means that this ban wasn't the automatic response from a soulless machine, but was instigated by a live, flesh-and-blood human being!

What was he or she thinking?

Going forward, I expect it to be increasingly difficult to operate on facebook if your Page's focus is on World War Two and thus - inevitably now and then - will bring posts and photos that might offend, or be misinterpreted by, facebook censors, who seem not to be among the greatest of history buffs ;-)

We will find a way though and you may want to bookmark this link where information will be posted /Dan