

Pictures and Poetry

Bertolt Brecht, *War Primer*, translated and edited by John Willett, Libris, 196 pages, ISBN 9 781870 352468, £19.95

During his exile from Germany during the Second World War, Brecht cut out war photographs from newspapers and magazines, kept them in a portfolio, and wrote four line poems to accompany them. We reproduce three of the pages in his *War Primer* by kind permission of the publishers.



The Nazi Big Three—Their Ending Should Be Wagnerian.

O swan-song! 'Never seek to question me!'
O pilgrims' choir! O fiery-magic trick!
Song of the Rhine gold on an empty belly!
That's what I'd call the Bayreuth Republic.



Field Marshal Fedor von Beck



Field Marshal Hugo Sperrle



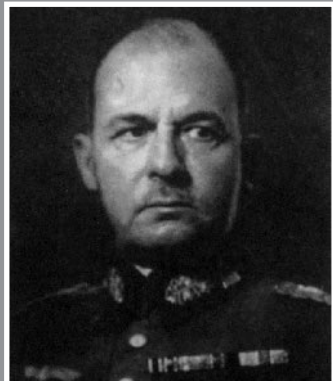
Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt



Field Marshal Erwin Rommel



General Heinz Guderian



Field Marshal Siegmund List

Here are six murderers. Now don't turn away
And don't just nod and murmur 'That's the truth'.
Showing them up has cost us to this day
Fifty great cities and most of our youth.



Look at the helmets of the vanquished! Yet
Surely the moment when we came undone
Was not when they were smitten from our heads
But when we first agreed to put them on.