

GERHARD SIMSON: "EINER GEGEN ALLE" <sup>1</sup>

When the first edition came out, we had occasion to refer to the interesting book in which Mr. Gerhard Simson described the lives during the last few centuries of outstanding men such as Henry Dunant and Fridtjof Nansen, and their struggle for humanitarian ends. Today a third edition, revised and enlarged, has appeared. Some of the figures stand out in still sharper relief, and one has a better idea of the difficult and at times heroic struggle which those men waged against their time and often against their surroundings.

In the pages which he devotes to Dunant, the author is less concerned with the sequence of external events than with the effect of influences and events which were to transmute an exceptional destiny into a tragic progression towards solitude. As we remarked on the previous occasion, Mr. Simson drew inspiration from books already published, for instance from the compendium *Solferino, ein Anfang, ein Zeichen, ein Ruf an Alle*, to which he refers, although there is no mention of the principal contributor, Mr. Willy Heudtlass, former head of the Press and Broadcasting Service of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, who in 1962 published a book giving valuable and hitherto unknown information about Dunant's life and work,<sup>2</sup> but which has not been quoted on this occasion.

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<sup>1</sup> Verlag C. H. Beck, München, 464 pp.

<sup>2</sup> See *Henry Dunant, eine Biographie in Dokumenten*, W. Kohlhammer Verlag, Stuttgart.

In the November 1962 issue of the *International Review*, we wrote: "This is in fact the first time that so much important information has been collected about Dunant, items of personal information which, even if Mr. Heudtlass considers them to be of interest, are not taken literally by him, but are rather clarified and sometimes corrected in the light of material which he reproduces in his book."