

Part I.

This film is made available for television by the Department of the Army in public interest.

It was 1945. The war was over. Slowly, painfully, life came back to the ruins of Europe.

The war was over but there was no peace. Despair crouched over the continent, hopelessness circled Europe like a bird of prey.

Why? What were the forces? What were the issues in a war that turned nations into rubble heaps and populations into beggars. The people wanted the answers, they wanted to know what happened and why.

In the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, 21 November 1945, the people of the world came together, for there sat the international military tribunal to judge the chief Nazi war criminals.

Robert H. Jackson, the chief American prosecutor, makes the opening statement for the prosecution.

"The privilege of opening the first trial in history against peace of the world imposes a grave responsibility. The wrongs which seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated. That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law, is one of the most significant tributes that power has ever paid to reason. This inquest represents the practical effort of four of the most mighty of nations, with support of fifteen more, to utilize international law to meet the greatest menace of our time, aggressive war."

"The common sense of mankind demands that law shall not stop with the punishment of petty crimes by little people, it must also reach men who possess themselves of great power and who make deliberate and concerted use of it to set in motion evils which leave no home in the world untouched."

"In the prisoner's dock sit twenty odd broken men, reproached by the humiliation of those they have led, almost as bitterly as by the desolation of those they have attacked, their personal capacity for evil is forever past. Merely as individuals, their fate is of little consequence to the world. What makes this inquest significant is that these prisoners represent sinister influences that will lurk in the world long after their bodies have returned to dust. They are living symbols of the arrogance and cruelty of power, of racial hatred, of terrorism and violence. They are symbols of fierce nationalism, and of militarism, of intrigue and war-making which have broiled Europe generation after

generation, crushing its manhood, destroying its homes, and impoverishing its lives. They have so identified themselves with the philosophies they conceived, and with the forces they directed, that any tenderness to them is a victory and an encouragement to all the evils which are attached to their names."

"What these men stand for we will patiently and temperately disclose. We will give you undeniable proof of incredible events. The catalogue of crimes will omit nothing. It may be that these men of troubled conscience do not regard a trial as a favor, but they do have fair opportunity to defend themselves, a favor which they rarely extended to their fellow countrymen."

"We will not ask you to convict these men on the testimony of their foes. There is no count of the indictment that cannot be proved by books and records."

And we will show you the defendants' own films. You will see their own conduct and hear their own voices as they re-enact for you, from the screen, some of the events in the course of the conspiracy. The acts of the defendants have bathed the world in blood and set civilization back a century.

"These are the things that stand in the dock, shoulder to shoulder with these prisoners. The real complaining party at your bar is civilization."

The United States of America presents count one of the indictment: That all the defendants participated as organizers or accomplices in a common plan or conspiracy to commit crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"The aims of this conspiracy were open and notorious. It was far different from any other conspiracy ever unfolded before a court of justice."

"Its history is the history of the Nazi party, which grew from the brawling streets of Munich in the Twenties. And from the beginning, Adolf Hitler and his followers were committed to the use of any means, whether or not they were legal or honorable."

"Their aim was the highest degree of control over the German community. Their intentions were blatantly put forth in Mein Kampf and the party program. And they preached their favorite doctrine up and down the land. They said that persons of a so-called 'German blood' were a master race entitled to subjugate or even exterminate other races. They said that the Germans should be ruled under the Führer (Fuehrer) Principle (or leadership principle) by which each sub-leader owed unconditional obedience to his superior and so on right up to Adolf Hitler. They said that war was a noble and necessary activity for Germans. And they said that the Nazi Party alone had the right to rule Germany and the right to destroy the party's enemies. Their rise to power was based on fraud, deceit, intimidation and coercion, culminating finally in terror and flame."

"Into that flame went the Democratic constitution of the Weimar Republic and the freedom of the German people. For the fire set by the Nazis extended to the very

Reichstag."

Hans (Kesavius?), a witness who formerly held a high position in the Berlin Police Administration, tells of his investigation of the Reichstag fire:

"To speak briefly and to state the facts. First of all we ascertained that quite generally, Hitler had stated a wish for a large scale propaganda campaign. Goebbels took on the job of making the necessary proposals and it was Goebbels who first thought of setting the Reichstag on fire."

"A group of ten reliable S.A. men were made ready, and now Goering was informed about every detail of the plan. It was expected, from Goering, and he gave assurances that he would do so, that the police would be instructed, while still suffering from shock, to take up a false trail."

#### PROSECUTION:

"Using the Reichstag fire as a pretext for seizing power, the Nazi conspirators lost no time in tearing Germany away from a policy of peace. Late in 1933 they led their nation out of the disarmament conference, quit the League of Nations, and embarked on a course of secret rearmament."

"By 1934, the new armaments program, designed by defendants Goering, Schacht and Funk, was going full blast. German industry was again turning out the tools of war. The plants hummed and one year later Goering could announce, 'From the strong foundation of the National Socialist Ideology today rises once again the German Armed Forces.'"

"A few days later, General von Blomberg announced the new law for compulsory military service. The law was signed by defendants Goering, Hess, Frank, Frick, Schacht and Von Neurath. The training began."

"Finally, in the spring of 1936, the Nazis sent their new troops marching into the Rhineland."

#### EXCERPT FROM A FILMED GERMAN MEETING:

"Mein Fuehrer, on March 7, 1936, soldiers of the army which was created by order of the Fuehrer, crossed the sacred river of German history and occupied their former garrisons. They pledge the Fuehrer, whatever decisions he may make, unbreakable faith and obedience, and they vow to follow him and to prove their sincerity, by their never ending love for Germany."

PROSECUTION:

The columns grew longer. The sound of boots grew louder on the streets of Nuremberg. But Hitler said,

'The German people is not a people which welcomes a war today, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. That is not the character of the German. He is by nature not only peaceful and peace loving, but above all conciliatory. He wants to work. In our country are millions of peasants, they want to till their fields, they want to bring in their harvests. The millions of workers, they want to perform their work.'

"But the Nazi conspirators, in the name of Lebenstraum, continued to plot new aggressions against peace. In November 1937, Hitler called a special meeting with defendants Goering, Von Neurath, Raeder and Generals Von Blomberg and Von Fritz. The meeting was secret, but Lieutenant Colonel [Huspach?], Hitler's personal adjutant, faithfully recorded Hitler's words."

'The German question can be solved only by way of force. For the improvement of our military political position, it must be our first aim in every case of entanglement by war to conquer Czechoslovakia and Austria simultaneously. The annexation of the two states to Germany, militarily and politically, would constitute a considerable relief.'

"This meeting set the stage for Nazi expansion and Act I came only, three months later at Berchtesgaden when defendant Von Papen finally engineered a meeting between Schuschnigg, the Austrian Chancellor, Hitler and defendants Keitel and Von Ribbentrop."

Guido Schmidt, who was Austrian foreign minister at the time, also attended the meeting and now he takes the witness stand:

PROSECUTION: "Did Hitler demand that Seys-Inquark be made minister of security?"

SCHMIDT: "That was one of the demands on their program."

PROSECUTION: "Were there also demands made with regard to currency exchange and customs?"

SCHMIDT: "There were demands of an economic nature of every kind."

PROSECUTION: "Hitler told you that you had until February 15th to accept his terms, didn't he? Then he told you that if you didn't do so he would use force?"

SCHMIDT: "The ultimatum, as Hitler stated it was that he intended, as early as

February, to march into Austria and that, for the last time, he was prepared to postpone it."

PROSECUTION:

"Faced by these threats the Austrians carried out all Hitler's demands. But the Nazi conspirators weren't satisfied."

"A month later, when Schuschnigg announced a plebiscite for Austrian independence, Hitler and defendant Goering demanded the plebiscite be canceled. Another ultimatum demanded Schuschnigg resign within three hours. Fearing invasion, Schuschnigg resigned and finally defendant Seys-Inquark was appointed the new Chancellor of Austria. That same day Goering in Berlin called Kepler of the German embassy in Vienna. The conversation was transcribed Kepler spoke first."

KEPLER:

"Well we represent the government Now."

GOERING:

"Yes, that is it, you are the government. Listen carefully. The following telegrams should be sent here from Seys-Inquark. Take the notes. The provisional Austrian government sends to the German government an urgent request for support in its task to help prevent bloodshed. For this purpose we ask the German government to send German troops as soon as possible."

KEPLER:

"Well S.A. and S.S. are marching through the streets. Everything has collapsed with the professional groups."

GOERING:

"Seys-Inquark is the only one who still has power in Austria."

KEPLER:

"Yes, there are troops who crossed the border today."

PROSECUTION:

"The Act was written joining Austria to German and signed by defendants Seys-Inquark, Goering, Frick, Von Ribbentrop and Hess. Hitler of course had said,

'Germany never intends, nor wishes, to interfere in the internal affairs of Austria, to annex Austria or to conclude an Anschluss.--31 May 1935.'

"The curtain fell on act I, but already the Nazi conspirators prepared for Act II with this 1938 memorandum from Hitler to his high command:

'It is my unalterable decision to smash Czechoslovakia by military action in the near future. It is the job of the political leaders to bring about a politically and militarily suitable moment.'

"Conrad Heinlein was designated political leader. The plan was labeled 'Operation Green' and defendant Jodl issued another memorandum reading."

'Operation Green will be set in motion by means of an incident in Czechoslovakia, which will give Germany provocation for military intervention. The fixing of the exact time for this incident is of the utmost importance.'

"A few months later, Germany signed the 'Munich Pact with England France and Italy. This pact involved the transfer of the Sudetenland to Germany. The conspirators called it their last territorial demand. But before the ink was dry they were making other plans. For Hitler's goal was the complete absorption of Czechoslovakia."

"And now the Czech president, Halsha was called to a meeting with Hitler and defendants Goering, Von Ribbentrop and Keitel. They gave him the ultimatum Bohemia and Moravia would be incorporated into Germany immediately or Czechoslovakia would be invaded and Prague destroyed from the air. President Haukau was helpless."

"Defendants Von Ribbentrop and Frick signed the decree making Bohemia and Moravia a German protectorate. Speaking some months before of the Sudetenland however, Hitler had said:

'I have promised, and repeat it here, that there will be no more territorial problems for Germany in Europe. I will be no longer interested in the Czech state and I will guarantee it.'

26 September, 1938

Adolf Hitler

"Now, according to more of his adjutant's notes, Hitler reviewed the Nazi plan of violence and treachery from 1934 to 1939. The notes read:

'First rearmament. In 1935 the introduction of compulsory military service. After that, militarization of the Rhineland. One year later, Austria came. It brought about a considerable reinforcement of the Reich.'

'The next step was Bohemia and Moravia. Then followed the erection of

the Protectorate and with that the basis for action against Poland was laid. Basically I did not organize the armed forces in order not to strike. The decision to strike was always in me.'

## PART II

In the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sir Hartley Shawcross presents Count II, Crimes Against Peace, charging that all the defendants participated in the planning and waging of wars of aggression, wars in violation of international treaties, agreements and assurances.

## PROSECUTION:

The Rhineland is occupied, Austria and Czechoslovakia are seized by Germany, and now the Nazi conspirators turned to the next problem, the conquest of Poland. Again an adjutant, Lieutenant Colonel Schmidt, transcribed Hitler's words:

"The solution of the problem demands courage. It is impossible without invasion of foreign states or attacks on foreign property. There is, therefore, no question of sparing Poland, and we are left with the decision to attack Poland at the first suitable opportunity. We cannot expect a repetition of the Czech affair. There will be war."

Meanwhile, according to their well established practice, the conspirators stirred up the Danzig issue to furnish frontier incidents which could justify an attack on Poland. Then, on 23 August, the Nazis signed their non-aggression pact with Russia.

Then Hitler told his high command, "Now Poland is in the position in which I want them. I am only afraid that in the last moment some Schweinehund will make a proposal for mediation."

Appeals were made, twice by the Pope and by President Roosevelt: 'Finally, Mr. Roosevelt asks that assurances be given him that the German armed forces would not attack, and above all would not invade, the territories or possessions of the following independent nations.'

(He then names as those coming into question: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, ... Luxembourg. [Nearly all of the countries of Europe are named.]

"On 1 September 1939, the Nazis sent the Wehrmacht smashing into Poland, and into a new World War. For France and England, faithful to their mutual

assistance pact with Poland, immediately declared war on Germany."

"The Luftwaffe opened mass attacks on Polish towns and cities. And Hitler, according to Schmidt's notes, said, Destruction of Poland in the foreground. I shall give a propagandized cause for starting the war. Never mind if it be plausible or not. Have no pity, take a brutal attitude."

"But, as usual, before the attack on Poland, Hitler told the world 'During the troubled months of the past year, the friendship between Poland and Germany has been one of the reassuring factors in the political life of Europe.'--30  
January, 1939 Adolf Hitler

"The path of destruction started in Poland, but soon it led North and South across all Europe. And each new aggression was based on Hitler's principle, that in war victory, not right, is what matters."

"Non-Aggression Treaty: It is firmly resolved to maintain peace between Denmark and Germany in all circumstances."  
31 May 1939 Von Ribbentrop

But on 9 April 1940, German troops invaded Denmark.

"The Deutsche government is determined, in view of the friendly relations which exist between Norway and Germany, under no circumstances to prejudice the inviolability and integrity of the Norwegian state."  
2 September 1939 Das Deutsche Reich

But on 9 April 1940, German troops invaded Norway.

"I assure the governments of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, that Germany will not violate their neutrality."  
6 October 1939 Adolf Hitler

But on May 10, 1940, German troops invaded Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg.

'The firmly established, reliable relationship of Germany to Yugoslavia will represent an element of calm to our nerve-wrecked continent. This peace is the goal of all who are disposed to perform really constructive work.'  
1 June 1939 Adolf Hitler

But on 6 April 1941, German troops invaded Yugoslavia.

"These criminal methods of the Nazi conspirators brought them early success, and by 1941 they had most of Europe under their heel. Now an evil ambition for power and more power drove them on. But two of the world's mightiest nations, the United States and Soviet Russia, remained to block the Nazi drive for world supremacy. They had to be dealt with firmly, immediately and now Germany asked cooperation from her full partner in aggression to the East [Japan] and from her junior partner to the south [Italy]. In Berlin they drew up the Axis pact, the blueprint of the new order, and parceled out the continents of the world for Axis domination. Italy was to get the Mediterranean sphere Japan was to get the Orient and to Germany would go the rest of the world."

"In June 1941, in violation of their non-aggression pact, the Nazis sent the Wehrmacht deep into Soviet territory according to military plans long made. As usual, there was no declaration of war. Hitler had said, 'Today Germany, tomorrow the world,' and this was tomorrow."

Land warfare in the East, air warfare in the West. For now defendant Goering's Luftwaffe was thrown in full force against the people and cities of Britain. Hitler after all had told the Reichstag, 'I will blot out their cities.'

Then on 7 December, 1941 the Japanese, keeping their end of an infamous bargain, struck at the United States, also without declaration of war. Japanese bombs rained on Pearl Harbor, spreading war finally to the Pacific. The new order was on the march. World War II flamed around the globe.

### PART III

"In the name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, General Ruden presents counts three and four, charging that all the defendants committed war crimes in Germany and in all those countries occupied by Germany."

### SOVIET PROSECUTION:

"The Nazi conspirators committed crimes against enemy armies, against prisoners of war, against the civilians of occupied lands. They believed in the barbaric doctrine of total war and considered themselves free from the constraints of international law or the established toms of war. Their ruthless policies were ordered like this one from General Reineke of the Wehrmacht high command"

'The Bolshevik soldier has lost all claim to treatment as an honorable opponent. Active or passive resistance must be broken immediately by force of arms. Prisoners of war attempting to escape are to be fired on without previous challenge. No warning shot must be fired.'

More proof of this savage Nazi policy comes from the affidavit of Kurt Lindau, a

former Gestapo officer:

'There existed in the prisoner of war camps on the Eastern front, small screening teams headed by lower ranking members of the Gestapo. It was the duty of these teams to segregate the prisoners of war who were candidates for execution according to the orders that had been given, and to report them to the officers of the Gestapo.'

And a letter from defendant Rosenberg to defendant Keitel in 1942 stated clearly:

'A large part of the Soviet prisoners of war have starved or died because of the hazards of the weather. In many cases prisoners of war could no longer keep up on the march because of hunger and exhaustion. In numerous camps no shelter for the prisoners was provided at all, even tools were not made available to dig holes or caves.'

"Yet when some objected that this treatment violated the Geneva convention, defendant Keitel answered with this memorandum, 'We are concerned with the destruction of an ideology. Therefore I approve and back the measures.' This is proved by the testimony of General Lahousen who worked under Admiral Canaris in the Apverg. General Lahousen attended conferences where crimes against whole populaces were plotted in advance by the Nazi conspirators."

"Will you please explain exactly what took place at the conference in the Fuehrer's name?"

GENERAL LAHOUSEN:

"First of all Canaris had a short talk with Von Ribbentrop, particularly as regards the Polish region. Secondly, Canaris spoke vehemently against the measures that he, Canaris, had found out about to wit: the projected shooting and extermination measures that were being directed against the Polish intelligentsia, nobility and clergy as well as all elements that could be regarded as embodiments of the National Resistance movement."

"Canaris said at the time, more or less verbatim, that the world would at some time make the armed forces, under whose eyes these events occurred, also responsible for these events."

SOVIET PROSECUTION:

"Defendant Frank, Nazi governor of Poland, was another of the conspirators guilty of directing mass murders. In his diary he speaks of 'taking advantage of

the focus of attention on the Western front by carrying out whole sale liquidation of thousands of Poles.'

These atrocities were not restricted to the East. Here is the proof in the village of Oradour sur Glane, France:

[Shown are scenes of demolished homes and churches, rows of graves and dozens of mourners.]

Here is the proof in the town of Bonde, Belgium:

[Scenes of hundreds of burned and battered bodies, stacked and in rows.]

Here is the proof in the San Callisto caves, Italy where 350 hostages were carefully listed, and systematically murdered.

[More bodies.]

"And here is Lieditche, Czechoslovakia. In blind retaliation for the assassination of S.S. man Heidrich, the Nazis murdered all Lieditche's men and sent their women and children into slavery in Germany. But this was not enough. Boys of the Arbitur were moved into the ruins of Lieditche, and ordered to level the village to the ground. Lieditche was to be the Nazis' example to all occupied people."

"But more terrible still were the concentration camps, which from the beginning had been the conspirators' chief weapon against opposition of every kind. German anti-Nazis were the first victims, but with the war their numbers swelled to include citizens of all the nations of Europe. Their fate is described by witness Rudolph Hess"

HESS:

"I commanded Auschwitz until the first of December 1943 and estimate that at least 2.5 million victims were executed and exterminated there by gassing and burning. At least another half-million succumbed to starvation and disease making a total dead of about 3 million. Included among the executed and burned were approximately 20 thousand Russian prisoners of war, who were delivered at Auschwitz in Wehrmacht transports. The remainder of the total included about 100,000 German Jews and great numbers of citizens from Holland, France, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Greece and other countries."

PROSECUTION:

"Medical experiments too were standard procedure at many concentration

camp. These included lowering the body temperature to twenty-eight degrees celsius, high altitude tests in pressure chambers, experiments with poisoned bullets and contagious diseases, and even sterilization experiments. This was genocide, the premeditated destruction of entire peoples. Genocide, the direct result of the Nazis' claim that they had a right to destroy the party's opposition." Tomorrow the world dead or alive.

### PART III

In the name of the French Republic Mssr. De Menthon closes counts three and four, the final charges of the indictment.

#### FRENCH PROSECUTION:

All the defendants committed crimes against humanity, including the murder and persecution of all people opposed to the Nazi party and the enslavement, exploitation, and deportation of the civilian population. The slave-labor policy was the responsibility of defendant Sauckel who admitted in 1944, 'Out of the 5 million workers who arrived in Germany, not even 200,000 came voluntarily.'

Forced labor often meant brutal and degrading treatment for Sauckel himself suggested, 'All the men must be fed, sheltered and treated in such a way as to exploit them to the highest possible extent at the lowest possible expenditure.' And defendant Borman added, 'The Slavs are to work for us, in so far as we do not need them, they may die.'

"Slavery was only one aspect of Nazi exploitation. Defendant Goering, in a talk with German occupation authorities in 1942, discussed another plunder."

'God knows you are not sent out to work for the welfare of the people in your charge, but to get the utmost out of them so that the German people can live. This everlasting concern about foreign people must cease now, once and forever. I have here reports on what you are expected to deliver. It makes no difference to me in this case if you say that your people will starve.'

"But Nazi crimes against humanity were not limited to foreign peoples. Defendant Frick, as Minister of Interior, directed a program aimed at aged, insane or incurable Germans, the so-called 'useless eaters.' Thousands were committed to special institutions. Few ever returned. Evidence proves they were murdered because they were useless to the plans of the Nazi conspirators."

But perhaps the greatest crime against humanity the Nazis committed against the Jews. A campaign of hate and murder that goes to the heart of the Nazi movement.

[Excerpt from a German film of a meeting.]

"German citizens are only those of German or related blood willing to serve the German Reich and people. Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or related blood are prohibited."

#### FRENCH PROSECUTION:

S.S. Brigadier General Streicher, in charge of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943, had learned his Nazi lessons well. In a secret report he said:

'The Reich Fuehrer S.S. ordered, on the 23rd of April 1943, the cleaning out of the ghetto with utter ruthlessness. I therefore decided to destroy and burn down the entire ghetto. Jews frequently left their hideouts and jumped out of the windows only when the heat became unbearable. Life in the sewers was not pleasant after the first week. Tear gas bombs were thrown into the man holes and the Jews were driven out and captured. Countless numbers of Jews were liquidated in sewers and bunkers through blasting. The longer the resistance continued, the tougher became the members of the Vaten (sp?), S.S., the police and the Wehrmacht, who always discharged their duties in an exemplary manner.'

Little by little the Nazis were reaching what they called 'The Final Solution,' the total extermination of the Jews of Europe. Hess described the process well.

'We had two S.S. doctors on duty at Auschwitz to examine the incoming transport of prisoners. The prisoners were marched past one of the doctors who would make spot decisions as they walked by. Those who were fit for work were sent into the camp, others were sent immediately to the extermination plant. Children of tender years were invariably exterminated since, by reason of their youth, they were unable to work. We endeavored to fool them into thinking they were to go through a delousing process.'

'It took from three to fifteen minutes to kill the people in the death chambers depending on climatic conditions. We knew the people were dead because their screaming stopped. We usually waited about one-half hour before we opened the doors and removed the bodies. After the bodies were removed our special commandos took off the rings and extracted the gold from the teeth of the corpses.'

"Much of this loot was then, transferred to the secret vaults of the Reichsbank at Frankfurt am Main, the Reichsbank of defendant Funk."

"Labor chief Robert La (sp?) knew that 6 million Jews died in the Nazis' 'Final Solution.' In his will he said:

'In anti-Semitism, we violated a basic commandment of God's creation. It is hard to admit mistakes but the whole existence of our people is in question. We must have the courage to rid ourselves of anti-Semitism. God has taught me that in my cell in Nuremberg.'

And defendant Frick himself said before this court,

'We have fought against Jewry and we have allowed ourselves to make utterances which are terrible. A thousand years will pass and this guilt of Germany will still not be erased.'

"The Prosecution rests."

#### PART IV

The defense begins. They call 61 witnesses and introduce 38 thousand affidavits on the defendants behalf. They submit 136 thousand more affidavits on behalf of the S.S., 10,000 on behalf of the S.A., 7,000 on behalf of the S.D., 3,000 on behalf of the General Staff and the O.K.W. and 2,000 on behalf of the Gestapo. These attorneys were personally selected by the defendants. Many are well known German lawyers and each now rises to plead acquittal for his crimes. Some make blanket denials of all guilt.

'Some of the defendants had, without doubt, a great influence in those spheres which did not interest, Hitler. They had no part whatsoever in the great decisions concerning war and peace, armistice and peace offers, etc.'

Other attorneys lead their clients through a carefully prepared defense. Here Streicher is examined:

#### ATTORNEY:

"I now continue. It has also been stated by the prosecution that Himler and Kaultenbrunner would have had no one to carry out their orders to kill if you hadn't made that propaganda and if you hadn't conducted the education of the German people in that sense."

#### STREICHER:

"I don't believe that those who had been given the order by the Fuehrer to carry out the killings or to pass an order to kill, that those people would have been

made to do this by my periodical. Hitler's book, Mein Kampf existed and the contents of that book were the authority, the cause."

Next comes Kaultenbrunner:

ATTORNEY:

"You are accused of establishing Mauthausen, of inspecting and visiting this camp regularly. The witness Herriger testified having seen you in this camp and further testified having seen you at the inspection of gas chambers and while these gas chambers were in operation."

KAULTENDRUNNER:

"The testimony is wrong. Every concentration camp in the Reich, of which I know anything, was established by Himler through Kohl."

Later the prosecution is allowed to cross-examine the defendants. Rosenberg is questioned:

PROSECUTION:

"Did your ministry force people to leave their homes, to go to Germany to work for the German state?"

ROSENBERG:

"It is true that force was used and it is not denied that some terrible encroachments occurred."

Now Raeder takes the stand.

PROSECUTION:

"On the 23rd of May, in the Reich Chancellery, Hitler said that he would give you an indoctrination on the political situation and he said, 'We are left with the decision to attack Poland at the first opportunity.' Did you still think that he had no aggressive intentions?"

RAEDER:

"I believed that for a long time. Just as General Jodl said, after that Hitler had solved the Czech problem purely politically, it was to be hoped he would also be able to solve the Polish question without bloodshed. I believed that until the last moment, until the 22nd of August."

Keitel is cross-examined:

PROSECUTION:

"Yesterday your counsel showed you this order dated 16 September, 1941. It said that it is necessary to take immediate, cruel measures and that human life in the East is absolutely worthless. You remember the basic idea of the order, that human life costs absolutely nothing?"

BENCH: "Please answer the question."

PROSECUTION. "You signed this order with this statement?"

KEITEL: "Ja!" (German for yes)

Next Jodl:

PROSECUTION:

"Do you remember any other reason for such great mortality among Soviet prisoners of war?"

JODL:

"I didn't know the reasons for this mass murder, but they seemed to be completely wrong, that I do know."

Now von Ribbentrop:

PROSECUTION:

"Are you telling the tribunal, on your oath, that you knew nothing about the effect of military pressure on Austria?"

VON RIBBENTROP:

"I wish to stress again that I knew nothing about military measures, and that if I had known something, I wouldn't see any reason not to say so. But it is a fact that during the days before and after the Hitler-Schuschnigg meeting, I was so busy taking over the foreign office that I could give only slight attention to the Austrian problem."

Then Goering is cross-examined:

PROSECUTION:

At the end of the meeting you used the following words didn't you? 'German Jewry must, as a penalty, forfeit one-billion marks, then the pigs won't commit any more crimes.'

GOERING: "Jawohl!"

PROSECUTION:

"Do you still say that neither Hitler nor you knew of the policy to exterminate the Jews?"

GOERING:

"I already have said that not even approximately did I know to what degree this thing took place."

PROSECUTION:

"You did not know to what degree, but you knew there was a policy that aimed at the liquidation of the Jews."

GOERING:

"No, not liquidation of the Jews. I only knew that certain, perpetrations had taken place."

Speer takes the stand:

PROSECUTION:

"You were present on April 23, 1945, when Hitler received the telegram from Goering suggesting that he take over power. What did Hitler say on that occasion?"

SPEER:

"Hitler was most excited about the contents of the telegram, and he expressed himself in a very clear manner about Goering. He said that he knew for some time that Goering had failed, that he was corrupt, that he was a drug addict. It was typical of Hitler's attitude toward the entire problem, however, that he followed the statement up by saying, 'but he can, negotiate the capitulation.' He stated in an offhand manner, 'It doesn't really matter who does it.' His disregard for the German nation was expressed in the way he said this."

After months of examination and cross-examination, several defendants make final statements to the tribunal. Frank is first:

FRANK:

"I myself, speaking from the very depth of my sentiments and the experience of five months of this trial, want to say this. Now that I have gained the last insight into all that which has been committed in the way of dreadful atrocities, I feel a terrible guilt within me."

Funk declares:

"When these measures of terrors and violence against Jews were put up to me, I suffered a nervous break down because at the moment it came to my mind with full clearness that, from here on, the catastrophe took its course all the way up to the terrible and atrocious things about which we have heard and about which I knew only in part at the time of my imprisonment. I felt ashamed and guilty at that moment and I feel the same way today, but it is too late."

Now Schirach speaks:

"It is my guilt that I educated German youth for a man who committed murders million fold."

Schacht is next:

"Everything he promised to the German people, and thereby to himself, he did not afterwards keep. He promised equal rights for all citizens and, without regard to capabilities, his adherents were privileged above all others. He promised to fight against political lies and, together with his minister Goebbels and by himself, he never did anything but disseminate political lies and political fraud. He released criminals and put them into his service. He did everything in the way of not keeping his promises. He deceived the world, Germany and me."

Speer once more:

"The tremendous danger contained in this totalitarian system only became really clear the moment we were approaching the end. Everything that has happened during this trial, everything you have seen in the way of orders that were carried out without any hesitation did, after all, turn out to be mistaken. That is why this trial must contribute to the prevention of such distorted wars in the future and to the establishment of principles of human cooperation."

And Keitel again:

"I urge, I was not able to prevent what should have been prevented. That is my guilt. I can only wish that out of a clear recognition of the causes of the disastrous methods and the terrible consequences of this war, there will arise for the German people a new hope for a better future in the community of nations."

Now Frank:

"We call on the German people, whose representatives we were, to abandon this way, which was doomed to failure in the will and justice of God and which is doomed for everyone who may try to follow it anywhere in the world."

The last defendant to speak is Fritzsche:

"You of the prosecution did not expect anything good from Hitler and you are amazed about the extent of what really happened. But then try to understand the indignation of those who did expect something good from Hitler, and were betrayed. I am one of these betrayed."

Finally, both the defense and the prosecution sum up their arguments for the tribunal:

"An aggressor can be branded only by the world's conscience. That supreme organ of humanity must have not only real, but also moral authority. Its impartial Judgment must be looked upon with general confidence. It must stand above the contesting parties."

In the name of the United States of America, Justice Jackson delivers his summation.

"According to the testimony of each defendant, these men saw no evil, spoke none, and none was uttered in their presence. If we combine only the stories

from the front bench, this is the ridiculous, composite picture of Hitler's government that emerges.

"It was composed of: A number two man who never suspected the Jewish extermination program, although he signed over a score of anti-Semitic decrees. A number three man who is merely an innocent middle-man transmitting Hitler's orders without even reading them, like a postman or a delivery boy. A foreign minister who knew little of foreign affairs, and nothing of foreign policy. A field-marshal who issued orders to the armed forces but had no idea of the results they would have in practice. A security chief who was under the impression that the policing functions of his Gestapo and S.D. were somewhat on the lines of directing traffic. A party philosopher who had no idea of the violence his philosophy was inciting in the 20th century. A governor-general of Poland who reigned, but did not rule. A Gauliter of Franconia, whose occupation was to pour forth filthy writings about the Jews, but who had no idea that anyone would read them. A minister of the Interior who knew not even what went on in his own office, much less the interior of his own department, and nothing at all about the interior of Germany. A Reichsbank president who is totally ignorant of what went in and out of the vaults of his bank."

"To say of these men that they are not guilty, it would be as true to say there has been no war, there are no slain, there has been no crime."

In the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sir Hartley Shawcross delivers his summation:

"This trial must form a milestone in the history of civilization. Not only marking that right shall in the end triumph over evil, but also that ordinary people of the world, and I make no distinction here between friend and foe, are now determined that the individual must transcend the state. The state and law are made for man, that through them he may achieve a fuller life, a higher purpose, and a greater dignity."

In the name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, General Rudenko delivers his summation:

"And when we ask, 'Have the charges against the defendants been proved before the court, have the defendants been convicted of their guilt?' there is only one answer. Their crimes have been proved. Neither the statements of the defendants nor the arguments of the defense were able to refute our grave accusations. It has been impossible to cast doubt on events which actually took

place. The truth cannot be challenged. That is the real meaning of the trial. That is the lasting result of our long and strenuous effort."

In the name of the French Republic, Mssr. Ledurbe delivers his summation.

"When this international trial is closed and the principal war criminals sentenced, we shall go back to our own countries. The fate of these men now lies entirely with your conscience. This is beyond our competence Our task is finished. Now it is for you, in the silence of your deliberation, to listen to innocent blood crying for justice."

Lord Justice Lawrence [of] Great Britain, Mr. Frances Bittel [of the] United States, Mssr. DuFabres [of] France and Major General Nikitchenko [of the] U.S.S.R. and their alternates prepare the verdict. It will be based on the opinion of the majority.

On October 1, 1946, the verdict is delivered by Lord Justice Lawrence, president of the tribunal:

"Of the organizations, the S.S., S.D., Gestapo and leadership corps are found guilty, the high command, S.A. and Reich cabinet, not guilty. As for the individuals:"

Wilhelm Herman Goering: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Rudolph Hess: Guilty of conspiracy and crimes against peace. Life imprisonment.

Roachim Von Ribbentrop: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Wilhelm Keitel: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Ernst Kaultenbrunner: Guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Alfred Rosenberg: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Hans Frank: Guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Wilhelm Frick: Guilty of crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Julius Streicher: Guilty of crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Walter Funk: Guilty of crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Life imprisonment.

Hjalmar Schacht: Not Guilty on this indictment. Released.

Karl Donitz: Guilty of crimes against peace and war crimes. Ten years imprisonment.

Erich Raeder: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace and war crimes. Life imprisonment.

Baldur von Schirach: Guilty of crimes against humanity. Twenty years imprisonment.

Fritz Sauckel: Guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Alfred Jodl: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

Franz von Papen: Not Guilty on this indictment. Released.

Albert Speer: Guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Twenty years imprisonment.

Constantine von Neurath: Guilty of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Fifteen years imprisonment.

Arthur Seys-Inquark: Guilty of crimes against peace, war against humanity. Death by hanging.

Hanz Fritzsche: Not guilty on this indictment. Released.

Martin Borman, tried in absentia: Guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Death by hanging.

The trial is over.

Seven begin their prison sentences. Goering chooses to die by his own hand. The other ten wait for the gallows. In Nuremberg the people of the world found out what happened and why. But Nuremberg is more than an answer to a question. As Justice Jackson said,

"This trial is part of the great effort to make the peace more secure. It constitutes juridical action of a kind to ensure that those who start a war will pay for it personally."

Robert H. Jackson

Representative and Chief of Council  
of the  
United States of America

Nuremberg stands as a warning to all those who plan and wage aggressive war.

Unusual names and terms:

Nuremberg	Kaultenbrunner	Wilhelm	Conrad
Robert	Mauthausen	Herman	Heinlein
Jackson	Herriger	Roachim	Jodl
Muenchen	encroachment	Ernst	Sudentenland
Adolf	Yah	Alfred	Moravia
Hitler	Hodl	Julius	Prague
Mein	Vol	Walter	militarization
Kampf	Speer	Hjalmar	Hartley
Principe	Schirach	Karl	Shawcross
Weimar	Fritzsche	Donitz	Danzig
Reichstag	Hans	Erich	Roosevelt
Oradour	Goebbels	Faldur	Werhmacht
sur	Goering	Franz	Luftwaffe
Glane	Schacht	Albert	Schweinehund
Bande	Funk	Constantine	Schmidt's
Callisto	von	Arthur	Deutsche
Lieditche	Blomberg	Hans	Das

Heidrich	Hess	Leibenstraum	Wehrmacht
Liedtche's	Frick	Raeder	Goering's
Arbitur	Neurath	Fritz	Rudenko
Rudolph	Rheinland	Huspach	Reinhardt
Auschwitz	Lahousen	Hitler's	Kurt
Mssr	Canaris	Berchtesgaden	Linau
Menthon	Apverg	Papen	Rosenberg
Sauckel	Fuehrer's	Schuschnigg	
Borman	Gauliter	Keitel	
Streicher	Franconia	Ribbentrop	
Warsaw	Ledurbe	Guido	
Vaten	Lawrence	Schmidt	
Reichsbank	Frances	Seys-Inquark	
Frankfurt	Bittel	Kepler	
La	DuFabres	Vienna	
Himler	Nikitchenko	Anschluss	

This transcript was made by Vivian Vazquez, Fall 1988.

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